

Carol Sarler: Why Marje's death caused a storm





Suzanne Moore: Sarah the scapegoat





Cassandra: 'No one but a fool would fight on so many fronts ... issues could leave Blair isolated'

The subversives who lie in wait

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Conservative and Labour assassins came out of the shadows last night, threatening John Major and Tony Blair, and further shaking the unity that both

parties are seeking to present to voters. Lord Tebbit warned from the Right that if the Prime Minister ever tried to bind Britain into European Monetary Union, he would destroy the Conservative Party - with freedom-loving Tories joining others to create a new, poten-

tial party of government.

From the Left, an anonymous
Labour MP, writing as "Cassandra" in Tribune, the left-wing weekly, warned that Mr Blair had sown the seeds of his own destruction - making so many enemies that he faced a leadership coup

if he became prime minister.

The coincidental attacks revealed the depth of feeling in both parties against the direction being taken by the leaders: Mr Major balancing precariously on the single currency fence: Mr Blair forcing the pace of New Labour in the

Tony Blair and his henchfolk need to wake up, and fast, to the fact that the Tories are starting to roll' Leading article, page 17

long-running campaign for the next election, inflation up 0.6 percentage points to 2.7 per cent last month, and the lat-est MORI opinion poll showing the Torics up five points in a fortnight, yesterday's exposure of party tensions injected added zest to the battle.

Lord Tebbit told a meeting of the ight-wing Conservative 2000 Foundation last night that a Parliament com-posed largely of "pygmies" had accepted "a slide towards being little more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national af-fairs." He found Mr Major's stance over the 48-hour Working Time Directive hu-miliating, with his talk of bargaining for

EU pledges to be honoured. The former Conservative Party chairman then added insult to that injury, saying there was little difference between face of a Parliamentary party, much of which retains traditional Labour values.

With everything still to fight for in the both straining every sinew to argue that the position taken by Mr Major and Mr

it should not be an election issue. "It is time Mr Major realised that an

attempt by a Conservative government to shackle this country into a monetary union, which could not but lead to a political union, the state called Europe, would not just split the present Con-servative Party," Lord Tebbit said. "It

would destroy it.
"All those Conservatives who believe freedom, independence and democra-cy matter above all other political programmes would leave to join with those of other parties or none who shared that view. Such an alliance need not be a single issue party. It could be a potential party of government."

It emerged yesterday that ministers'

fear of the currency controversy had led them to block backbench demands for a full Commons debate about three EU documents on monetary union.

Members of the European Legislation Committee put down a Commons motion demanding a debate, but they

the floor of the House.

Monetary union also featured as one of the internal Labour crises that faced Mr Blair if he was elected Prime Minister, according to Tribune's "Cas sandra".

The author, described as a "senior" MP with front-bench experience, said that the single currency, taxation and public spending, the minimum wage, trade union rights, and devolution were all on the immediate agenda for a Labour Government.

"No one but a fool would choose to fight on so many fronts, yet all these is-sues will come to a head by the end of next year and could combine to leave the leader isolated and weakened be-

yond recovery.

"With Robin Cook having built the strongest reputation since John Smith," the article said, "there will be no shortage of MPs during next year's summer of discontent prepared to accept that the damage caused by an internal palace coup will be less of a problem for the party in the long-run than the greater risk of being led by a leader whose policies and personal beliefs are shared by only a small minority."



Tebbit: 'An attempt to shackle this country into monetary union would destroy the party'

I started, so now I'll finish

Marianne Macdonald Media Correspondent

"I've started so I'll finish," says Magnus Magnusson, and yesterday the BBC announced he will indeed finish - for good. A quarter of a century of interrogations in the notorious black chair draws to a close next year, with the end of Mastermind.

Launched in September 1972, the cerebral quiz has become as much a part of Britain's popular culture as Commation Street. But the BBC said vesterday that the show was drawing to the end of its natural life. "Although the programme is looking as fresh and vital as ever, and is attracting a wide range of contestants - from punk rockers to vicars - no programme lasts forever," said John Whiston, head of youth and entertainment features for BBC Television.

The BBC is working on plans for a documentary to mark the passing of the series, and a "spectacular final". New ideas are also being developed for shows "to take the tradition of Mastermind forward for

Much of Mastermina's success was due to its unflappably grave host. Magnusson, who was occasionally forced to stop the clock when he stumbled over a particularly abstruse pronunciation.

The leelandie-born presenter, who is writing a book of memoirs, was knighted in 1989 but cannot use his title, because he is not British. He was consulted about the deci-

sion and agreed with it, the BBC said. "Every good thing has to come to an end - and I would rather it ended with a bang than a whimper. We will be retiring from the scene when we are still on the crest, and I shall treat this last series as a celebration," the presenter commented.

Mastermind questions answered

The highest total score (41) was achieved by Kevin Ashman in 1995. His specialist subjects were Martin Luther King and civil rights movement, the history of the Western film and the

The show was created by Bill Wright, inspired by the grillings Germans gave him as a PoW.

In fact, Mastermind had fallen from a high of 20m viewers in its early years in a prime-time slot. As interest waned, it was moved to Monday

nights, where it was watched by less than 6 million earlier this year. But it has been a touchstone for some of the social changes since the early 1970s, not least the huge growth of interest in trivia, which has made fortunes for those who cashed

in on the fascination. The second-longest running quiz on television — second only to A Unestion of Sport - its format was created by Bill Wright, a prisoner of war in Germany, to echo the inquisitorial atmosphere in the camps. His main prop was the black chair, in which contestants nervously awaited Mr Magnusson's rapid-fire questions on general knowledge or a special topic of their choice. These have ranged from British poisoners

to punk rock and beekeeping. The sinister title music was also devised to induce the tension of a Nazi Wir camp. Entitled Approaching Menace by Neil Richardson, it was commissioned to create a mood of impending doom.

Leading article, page 17

is a hybrid of two commercially available (in 1972) chairs. Of the 23 winners, 16 are men and 7 are women A taxi driver Fred Housego, tube driver Christopher Hughes and a hospi-tal driver Ian Meadows were winners between 1980 and 1985 the first series to the present day. It show after Question of Sport.



British forces off to Africa today

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

A British general flew to the US by Concorde vesterday to finalise the size, shape and mission of the international force to intervene in Zaire. As ambassadors to the Unit-

ed Nations met in New York. Lieutenant-General Alex Harley, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Commitments), was heading for urgent talks in Washington.

The first British reconnaissance teams, including 40 specialists from various branches of



the armed forces, leave for Africa today. Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons: "We must prepare ourselves now for action." He said British troops would not go if he did not think the mission was "achievable" and said the rules of engagement still needed to be established.

But a large British force, probably headed by 5th Air-borne Brigade headquarters, is expected to leave very soon. The international force will

be deployed under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, which sanctions action by land, sea and air to restore peace between belligerent parties. Although it will focus on humanitarian aid. it will be able to act in a much tougher fashion than UN troops in Bosnia were able to.

An ostrich dish to die for

Katherine Butler

Diners in some of Europe's trendiest restaurants are faced with an alarming dilemma after the outbreak of the latest food scare. A tropical disease which has been likened to the deadly Ebola virus is now threatening to do for booming sales of ostrich meat what BSE has done for beef.

The European Commission slapped an indefinite ban yesterday on imports of live ostriches and ostrich meat from South Africa after an outbreak of Congo-Crimean fever, a highly unpleasant disease which in humans causes massive haemorrhaging and degeneration of the body's organs. EU scientific and veterinary experts advised the ban after the death of a worker in a South African ostrich abattoir. Fifteen

seriously ill following exposure to the infection in the same

premises.
Congo-Crimean fever is a tick-borne disease which in human victims causes internal and external bleeding leading to the collapse of body organs. It is fatal in about 30% of cases. Veterinary experts suspect the infection may be more virulent in ostriches than in other animals. South African researchers are conducting urgent research to establish the risks to human

The ban, which could be disastrous for South Africa's thriving ostrich industry, has angered the authorities in Pretoria who said they would lodge an official complaint given that the outbreak was confined to one slaughterhouse.

The EU imports about 800 tonnes a year of ostrich meat from South Africa, according to Further reports, pages 2 and 15 | other people are reported to be the European Ostrich Associbut the industry is in its infan- perfectly safe to eat.



ation. South Africa's industry is by far the biggest: of the 200,000 animals slaughtered annually,160 000 are raised there.

South Africa pioneered ostrich farming over 100 years ago

cy in Europe. There are some 5,000 Ostrich farmers in Europe, mostly in Holland, and more in the US. Ironically, demand for os-

trich, kangaroo and other exotic meats has soared in the wake of the BSE scare which has caused consumption of beef to fall by up to 40%. With a taste and a texture somewhere in between chicken and beef, it is served grilled like steak. It had started to take off in Britain in the last year (unlike the bird, which is flightless). But the latest scare is likely to do it no good, even though it is only supplies from South Africa which have

been questioned. Most of the ostrich meat eaten in Britain comes from domestic producers, and there is no reason to think it carries any health risk at all. Our beef may be suspect, but good old traditional British ostrich is still

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BT share move Business & City20-21 BT has begun negotiations with the Government in an attempt Foreign News 12-15 to remove its protection against takeovers provided since privatisation by the "golden share" in the company. Page 20

Thatcher warning

Baroness Thatcher told her Chinese hosts in Peking of her dismay at recent harsh sen-Sport25-28 tences for dissidents, warned China not to block access to the Unit Trusts24 Internet, and predicted that economic reform would lead to Classical16-18 changes in the way the country

Cash for sport Britain's Olympic medallists welcomed the largest funding package for sport. It will provide millions to help talented indi-Radio & TV23,24 Rock, Pop 8-14

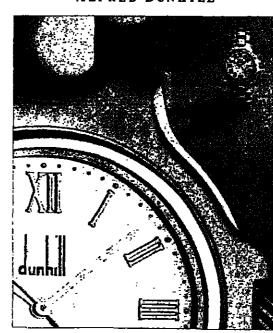
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A ringside view at Belshazzar's Feast

It was one of those days when no one could agree what coun-

try they were living in.

Recently all parties have signed up for the idea that morals are declining, children revolting, parents hopeless, teachers heroic or feckless (according to whether or not they get beaten up), dangerous mental patients marauding, stalkers stalking and our armed forces are the best in the world. All this is uncontroversial.

But when the economy is the subject of debate, this gloomy consensus goes out of the window. Sir Sydney Chapman (Con Chipping Barnet) started it at Prime Minister's Question fall in unemployment, "the verse trade cycles.



DAVID AARONOVITCH

ing yet again the success of the Government's policies".

Yes, said the PM, joblessness was falling "in a way that cannot be said of anywhere else in Europe". Once, of course, it was rising in a a way that could not be said of anywhere else in Eu-Time with praise for the latest rope - but that was due to ad-

SEVERE AVIOLES

NEUROTIC PERSONALITE DISORDE

And that's just the doctor.

So here we have a picture which - like the medieval Allegory of Good Government in siena Town Hall - depicts the British Paradise; a scene of in-dustrious happiness, where contented cod-pieced citizens bustle about their trade, while dusky foreign merchants and investors (dazzled by what they see) wander amongst the white.

positive-equitied towers. Such is not Labour's view. What about today's rise in in-flation, asked Tony Blair; inflation which was leading to a sharp rise in long-term interest rates. How could all this be squared with the PM's statements about his inflation targets? In his Allegory of Bad Government, an indebted people are encouraged by a squalid leadership to ignore the shab-biness around them, the broken league tables that we are always of Belshazzar's Feast, almost drowned him out. The louder it got, the more the Labour tiles and dead dogs, and spend, spend, spend as though there was tomorrow.

Only after the next election will the bills fall due and the children start to die.

The Prime Minister had quite a simple way of explaining the divergence between these two images - the idiocy of Mr Blair and anyone who agreed with him. "I know that the retail price figures are complex to understand" ("Oooh, he's getting nasty!" thought the Tory backbenches, wriggling happily), "So I will explain them to the Right Honourable Gentleman" ("Oh yes!", they

near the bottom of. Back came a rampant John

Major. "He really doesn't un-derstand!" ("Yes, yes, yes!" they cried). "It's genuine, he doesn't understand it! ("Oh! oh! oh!") "They are as incapable of running the economy as they are of understanding it!" ("More! More!" they chorused, in something close to an ecstasy of nas-

tiness).

When Tone got up for his third bite he could hardly be heard. Extraordinary animalistic yells, not unlike those that must have been heard round the Colosseum on Eat the Christian Day, or during the best bit

leader resorted to visual communication - in the form of an upthrust index finger - as though he might puncture the brown, flatulent bubble of Tory

noise in front of him. He didn't. When he sat down, a happy Major rubbed it in. October's inflation, he said, was the "fourth best we have known in October since the war!" Clearly Good Government. But by the time I had got back to my wordprocessor Labour's computerised rapid-rebuttal unit had calculated that "since 1956. inflation was lower in Octobers

1958/59/60/63/64/67/93 and 947. Bad Government, obviously,

significant shorts

Charges over £70m 'drug laundering'

A money dealer has been charged with laundering £70m of drugs proceeds, it emerged last night. Ussama el-Kurd, owner of the Notting Hill Exchange bures de change in west London, was charged with converting the sterling into assorted currencies, knowing or suspecting the money to be the proceeds of drug

trafficking. A Customs and Excise spokesman said that el-Kurd, of Notting Hill Gate, was charged under the Drugs Trafficking Act 1994 and remanded in custody until a later date following an appearance yesterday before City of London magistrates

More smog is forecast

Poor air quality is forecast in many of Britain's towns and cities today. London's first smog this winter has lingered over the capital throughout this week, produced by a combination of cold, still weather combined with fumes from traffic, industry and power stations. Recording stations at severa roadside sites measured nitrogen dioxide levels in the

Government's "poor" band. Earlier in the week. in Leeds, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Southampton, unsafe levels of benzene, created by traffic. were found. *Nicholas Schoon*

Universities ask to expand

Britain faces economic decline and the growth of an underclass if universities are. not allowed to expand, vicechancellors have told Sir Ron Dearing's inquiry into the future of higher education.

In its response to the inquiry the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals said that anyone who could benefit from going

At present the proportion of young people entering higher education is capped at just under a third. The universities say that a rise in the number of 18-year-olds alone could swell the university population by a quarterin the next seven

Tolstoy stands in by-election

Count Nicolai Tolstoy, the author and historian, was named yesterday as the UK Independence Party candidate for the the by-election in the Labour-held seat of Barnsley East. It is expected that the by-election in the staunch mining constituency will take place

on 12 November. Alan Sked, leader of the anti-European party, also announced that Dr Richard North, a food and farming consultant, would be its candidate in the by-election for the Tory-held Wirral South seat. Colin Brown

Governors to decide fate of five-year-old

nas izer

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School governors were meeting last night to decide whether to confirm the permanent exclusion of a ive-year-old boy. Ryan. Harrison has already been temporarily excluded from Birchfield Primary School, Gildersome, Leeds, for allegedly biting another pupil

— a charge his mother denies.

If permanently excluded, he would join the handful of other children at the very beginning of primary school whom teachers have decided are too disruptive to handle. Leeds City Council said the school's head had acted because of Ryan's "macceptably aggressive

Doctors warn of toy danger

Doctors last night warned parents about a new toy craze that left a baby dead and a young girl critically ill. Both children accidentally swallowed small balloons that are being sold to increasing numbers of children as water bombs".

· In the first of the two incidents in Bradford, West Yorkshire, a six-month-old girl died after one of the balloons became trapped in her throat. Eleven days later, in the same city, a sevenyear-old girl sucked the water bomb down her throat after apparently trying to blow it up as if it were a balloon. The girl was on a life

intensive care unit of **Bradford Royal Infirmary**

Protest grows over sacking

Parents protesting against the sacking of the headmaster at Cheltenham College bave threatened to stop paying fees unless its governors

They plan to withhold the money until Peter Wilkes. dismissed after the school dropped from number 47 to 205 in school league tables, is reinstated. An inquiry into the dispute is being carried out by Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Fran Abrams

Judge attacks in-flight drink

A judge yesterday criticised airlines for making alcohol too easily available after hearing how an American high on drink and drugs turned a Virgin Airlines transatlantic trip into a

"flight from hell". Staff on the flight from Orlando, Florida, to Manchester last month were so alarmed at 37-year-old James Mullahy's violent behaviour that the captain ordered the flight deck doors

should be locked. Mullahy, from Palm Coast, Florida, who was taking medication, was sentenced at Manbchester Crown Court to the maximum two years'

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Back issues of the Independent are available page

Singing for peace; Badesiti Kakande and members of the African Children's Choir rehearsing in Leeds. The children, many of them victims of war and now in orphanages and schools in Uganda, are touring Europe. One chorister said she hoped their message of peace would be heard by all Zaire crisis, page 15 Photograph: Steve Forest Ashdown leaves his party history in haze and you will soon see the effects to President Clinton's difficulof drugs that are so corrosive ties with the same issue, "if I

John Rentoul Political Correspondent

Is it legitimate to ask politicians if they took drugs when young? Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, insisted that it was not yesterday, when asked the question by an Oxford stu-

dent journalist. Mr Ashdown, who is opposed to the legalisation of cannabis, refused to give a direct answer when asked if he had ever taken illegal drugs by a reporter from Oxford Uni-

versity newspaper Cherwell.
Interviewed by David Black in his Westminster office, Mr Ashdown hesitated before replying: "I don't ... sorry ... I do not ... the moment you ask me that question, you immediately have the right to ask anyone else that question, and I do not accept the validity of the ques-

tion.
"What people do in their privacy is entirely up to them. It's not a matter for journalists." Just before the interview ended, Mr Ashdown asked to return to the subject and give

a more considered response.

"The answer to your question is that what all of us did in some distant moment of our youth is a matter for them, but it's not a matter for politicians today.

The moment you ask that question you are entitled to go round and ask other people it." he said.

Today's edition of Cherwell contains only this second answer, but the whole interview was tape-recorded.

Yesterday, Mr Ashdown elaborated further: "What matters is where I stand today - I am totally opposed to the legalisation of drugs."

He said he had visited drug-

ridden estates in Peckham, south London, and Moss Side, Manchester: "I suggest that anybody who believes in legal-isation should do what I did -

tack from Labour for being "high on tax and soft on drugs".
Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has said that he has nev-

should do the honourable thing er used illegal drugs, although and resign from the Commons, Red faces over drugs files theft

Files detailing Costoms and Ex-cise's most sensitive operations against drugs dealers have been stolen from a car in south London, writes Ian Burrell.

The incident is the latest in a series of embarrassing revelations concerning police and customs officers which are underminding the war on organised drugs smuggling.

Each of the stolen files would have contained intelligence rewith names of informants and police and customs officers working on the operation.

and do damage to our society. Legalisation is not an option."

Liberal Democrats, who voted

to set up an inquiry into the de-

criminalisation of cannabis at

their 1994 party conference.

The motion was moved by Chris

Davies, the MP elected last

year in the Littleborough and

Saddleworth by-election, who

was subjected to sustained at-

The issue is divisive within the

"We have taken what steps we can to minimise the damage caused to any operations in which the officer was involved." A report will be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service next week on one of Britain's most disastrous drugs investigations. Detectives from Thames Val-

ley police have spent two years

country's biggest.drugs barons, a Tory MP and police officers. The investigation, code-A Customs spokesman said:

had, you can be sure I would

A spokesman for the Prime

Minister said: "It is an absurd

question to ask. As far as we

know, the Prime Minister has

never been asked it. If he were

asked, the answer would be

David Evans, the robustly populist Tory MP for Welwyn Hatfield, demanded Mr Ash-

down's head. "If he has taken

illegal drugs - however long ago

does not matter - then he

have inhaled".

named Operation Mantis, was plaints Authority after the col-lapsed prosecution of Brian Charrington, the mastermind of the import of 1.5 tonnes of cocaine into Teesside in 1992. The report will also refer to Tim De-

538 8288. Credit cards welcome BACK ISSUES

The following is an edited version of the article in Tribune by Cassandra, said to be a senior Labour MP

Given the results in Tony Blair's Road to the Manifesto plebiscite and his iron grip on the party machine, it seems both bizarre and unbelievable to suggest that he could become the shortest serving prime minister of this century. But behind the facade of unity and discipline the reality is that Tony Blair's position as leader of

than of any leader in memory. The last time a Labour leader faced anything like a serious challenge was when Harold Wilson stood against Hugh Gaitskell in 1961. Even with such a formidable opponent, Gaitskell was able to survive.

the Labour Party is weaker

Anonymous 'Tribune' article challenges fitness of Labour chief Labour leaders has rested on

loyal support from the right wing majority inside the Parliamentary Labour Party and a close working relationship with the main trade union leaders. This is Blair's weakness. He is unaware of just how wide-

spread is the dissatisfaction and outright anger at the style of his leadership and policies among those MPs who put him in the leadership. Starting with the anger over choice of a school for his son and running up to the expensive irrelevance of the Road to the Manifesto, I have never known Labour MPs to be so bitterly and personal-

Blair has also squandered the traditional loyalty of the trade ett is so blatant it has become ier, whatever the outcome of the referendum plans, as English union leaders. It may get good public knowledge. headlines in the Tory press to It is against this background have your spin doctors rubbish that a Labour government will

Blair branded weakest leader in memory

Bill Morris and John Edmonds take office next spring and face several crises. Within the first but this overlooks the fact Blair will have to rely on these men few months, Blair will have to to stave off conference defeats resolve the conflict between once Labour is in government. To make matters worse there not Britain should be in the first is also the blunt reality that Tony wave of EU states joining mon-Blair is in a minority within his etary union. Gordon Brown inown Shadow Cabinet on key istends to introduce a minisues concerning the welfare Budget to replace what we instate and trade union rights. In the past, leaders could rely hern from Kenneth Clarke thus opening all the major fissures on upon a solid block of supporttaxation and public spending.

The attempt to push through of mutual loathing between Scottish and Welsh devolution

voters will have no say and those dinosaurs on the back benches who are opposed to devolution will not feel inhibited about rerunning the wrecking game that wasted so much of our time in the Seventies. While it has, so Brown and Cook on whether or far, been only the hard Left and the Trotskylte grouplets who

> tial to reawaken the sort of civil war that disfigured the party during the Bennite challenge.

have been ranting on about these issues, once pre-election unity is no longer required, all these changes have the poten-

No one but a fool would choose to fight on so many Tony Blair, John Prescott, Goris unlikely to be made any eas-

come to a head by the end of next year and could combine to leave the leader isolated and

weakened beyond recovery. With Robin Cook having built the strongest parliamentary reputation since John Smith, there will be no shortage of MPs prepared to accept that the damage caused by an internal palace coup will be less of a problem in the long run than the greater risk of being led by a leader whose policies and par-sonal beliefs are shared by only

a small minority of the PLR When power starts to stipaway. Blair will find that rule books and constitutions cannot ward off the real political forces that come into play. Labour could soon find that it too has the "men in grey suits" it thought were unique feature of

ers in the Cabinet, but the scale

In Radio Times this week, Andrew Duncan analyses the neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks, about his problems, his patients and his personality. You'd be mad to miss it. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

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The Church divided

A gay service has become the biggest row since women's ordination

Andrew Brown

The service of gay and lesbian celebration at Southwark Cathedral tomorrow has become the focus of the biggest row in the Church of England since the ordination of women.

More than 2,000 people will travel from all over the country for a day-long festival to mark the 20th anniversary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. It will be attended by three English bishops, supported by the heads of four Anglican churches around the world, among them Desmond Tutu and attacked by traditionalists with an impassioned mixture of prayer and propaganda.

More than 50 churches will

hold gatherings of prayer and repentance against the service. Most of them belong to Reform, a network of conservative evangelical churches which is also op-posed to the ordination of women. The Reform churches have threatened various degrees of separation from the official church over the issue.

Reform leaders insist they are not homophobic, and that they treat gays as individuals compassionately. "This service is not about a pastoral problems" said the Rector of Jesmond, the Rev David Holloway, yesterday. "You're dealing with a political issue, about how to order society and the church." The service has shocked evangelical opinion inside and outside the church. Supporters of the movement

see it as an opportunity for the church to show the world that homosexuals can have an honoured place, after centuries of persecution. Caught in the middle are the cathedral authorities, and most bishops of the Church of England, who feel they can neither support open homo-sexuality nor force it back into

the closet The only thing to unite both sides is agreement that the Church's present position is there are at least three positions. The first, adopted by the General Synod in 1987, is that "ho mosexual genital acts ... fall short of the ideal ... and must be met with a call to repentance. This coexists uneasily with a House of Bishops' report in 1991 which said the laity might in some circumstances have homosexual relationships, but priests might not. Both these statements contradict the third, unofficial, position, which was the one actually adopted by the House of Bishops until very recently: "Don't do it in the street and frighten the horses."

The most recent official position – the bishops' 1991 report - is not far in practice from the position of other mainstream denominations, such as Catholics and Methodists. There, just as in the Church of England, it is possible for homosexual lay people to be accepted in some congregations. What makes the Church of England a uniquely difficult case is the existence of a fairly large and self-confident

body of gay priests.

Both Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, and the former Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins,



ridiculous and illegical. In fact, All God's creatures: Man and

Battle hymn of the gay community

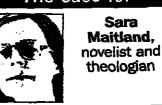
The gay movement is our cathedral if it is anyone's?

There is something ironic at best, and frightening at worst, that the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's 20th anniversary gathering in Southwark Cathedral tomorrow should need de-

fending, or justifying.

Homosexual acts are legal - and have been for nearly 30 years. The Church of England, along with most of the other mainstream denominations, has concluded that homosexuality is an identity not a decd, that gay is something that you are, rather than something that you do – and a state of being cannot of its nature (and God's nature) be "a sin". (That some gay people would dispute this definition is irrelevant in relation to whether or not the Church of England should allow the meeting: its own position and definition are what count

Despite these facts, rampant prejudice - in the forms of increased dan-ger of violence, employment discrimination, housing restrictions, children, to name but a few - continThe case for



ues. Daily, through public vilification, negative representation, and complex disingenuous lies, non-gay people have their prejudices fed and their desire to hate encouraged by our media. our beterosexist culture, and our Government's policies. This causes real mental distress

(the vulnerability to depression, selfharm and suicide of young gay and lesbian humans who are very often wantonly deprived of access to those who could help them is well documented).

Homosexuals - quite separate from their own actual sexual practice - are

treated as and feel themselves to be marginalised, villainised, isolated and scapegoated. This makes leshians and gay men, as individuals and as a community, a group who have a specific, gospel-based, Jesus-led, call on the Churches' charity and support.

The whole theory of sexuality is currently an issue of interest to the wider Christian community: all Christians have an obligation to discuss, debate and consider it. A group of Christians who are personally concerned with this pressing question wish to come to-gether and do so. LGCM is a Christian organisation.

Its members therefore are a part of the people of God, the Body of Christ, the Church. It is our cathedral as much as

Simply, the burden of proof lies not with LGCM but with those who object to the LGCM gathering, because the only "reason" I can think of is that there are people who cannot tolerate any one else having prayer and fun from which they have let their fears exclude

The Provost just cannot hope to get away with it?

That the Church of England is in two minds about homosexuality is hardly a secret. It is a church in which archbishops of York seem to inhabit grey areas, and bishops of Durham perhaps something altogether more colourful.

But the church is struggling to come to a common mind, and shows every sign of reaching a shared opinion, as it is bound by its title deeds to do. with a proper pastoral concern for all its members and in due deference to the authority of scripture.

Such a process of discernment is necessarily slow and reflective. The "rights" of homosexuals – if they are rights – are not the only issues at stake. As with other contentious issues - marriage discipline, for example, or the ordination of women - fundamental theological questions are raised.

The Lesbian and Gay Christian

The case against

The Rev Geoffrey Kirk, of St Stephen's, Lewisham

most of these issues to its own satisfaction. It has believes in absolute parity between homosexual and heterosexual relations in the ethical understanding of the church. This is far from the position of the General Synod or even of the House of Bishops in its document. Issues in Human Sexuality. Why then should the Provost of Southwark, Colin Slee, have allowed

the movement use of the cathedral for a celebration of its 20th anniversary of campaigning to overturn that position? Mr Slee argues that cathedrals in some sense belong to the nation, and

should be open to all who wish to pray in them. He does not pry into the financial dealings of city companies who request carol services, and in the same way he does not ask questions about what the members of the LGCM respectively, get up to under their

This bold and mendacious Erastianism must command a grudging admiration. But the provost cannot hope to get away with it. The decision of the Chapter at Southwark to allow the celchration cannot be passed off as open-or even-, handedness. They chose to favour, in an all-out political campaign for the soul of the Church of England, an opinion which the church at large has only recently rejected.

If they uphold the principles and aims of LGCM let them say so unequivocally. Then at least they could

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Onward Christian homos, Raise a joyful song. Though the church may Glad to own our gaynes Glad to walk with pride spum us, We will not be hidden, That's where we belong. We will not be dumb. Bishops shall not fright us, Out of fearful closets Homophobes must fiee. Gladly we have come. Hand in hand we celebrate Christian gays and lesbians, We will now be heard, Onward Christian homos Claiming our acceptance, Marching side by side,

By our loving Lord Glad to own our gayness Glad to walk with pride Onward Christian homos Marching side by side,

Onward Christian homos Glad to walk with pride

ordained practising homosexuals. Several serving diocesan more shelter the homosexual

A hymn written for the South-

wark festival by the former

Bishop of Glasgow and

Galloway, the Rt Rev Derek

Onward, Christian homos,

Queers and fags and drag

All one body we, Gay and lesbian Christians,

Marching out with pride.

Valking side by side.

We are not divided,

Rawcliffe.

For equality.

clergy they have inherited. When the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Roy Williamson, suggested last year that he. too, would be prepared to ordain practising homosexuals if they met all the other criteria for ordination, he was rapidly made to retract and forced off

don south of the Thames, while the diocese of London covers the city north of the river.

The two have much the highest concentration of gay priests in England. One well-placed observer suggested to me that under the previous Bishop of London, the Rt Rev David Hope, there were about 200 priests in the diocese who had active homosexual relationships. Dr Hope himself was one the board of an evangelical so- of ten bishops "outed" by a presciety. His diocese covers Lon- sure group, and subsequently

announced that his sexuality was a "grey area", though one that he had never explored. He is

now Archbishop of York. There is no prospect of an early resolution. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has repeatedly appealed for Christians to concentrate on more urgent marters. But conservatives, like Dr Holloway, see this as an issue on which they can defeat creeping liberalism, while to the gays and their supporters, it is a simple issue of justice.

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Farewell to innocence as shops ban children from seeing Santa alone children entered Santa's

It was one of the more de-

pressing revelations of Christmas present - the news that some shops have basned un-accompanied children from sitting on Santa's knee because of fears of child abuse allegations. Children's welfare charmes and a leading children's lawyer yesterday backed the decision

by shops, including Selfridges, to follow the policy, in order to avoid any threat of legal action. Peggy Ray, a member of the Solicitors' Family Law Association's children's committee, said it was "common

"It is a potential opportunifor a determined abuser to who would not be on it." ty for a determined abuser to abuse, so as a matter of to have another person there,"

a register of convicted pacdophiles would help, aithough there are a huge number of sus-



Seasonal image no longer: shops fearing legal action sense" to have a guardian in will no longer allow youngsters to sit on Santa's knee

A spokesman for the common sense and good National Society for Prevention practice it would be advisable of Cruelty to Children said: Some young people can be scared of visiting unfamiliar "I don't think shops have to environments and meeting check their Santas out Having strangers. The NSPCC would recommend that adults accompany their children when

visiting Santa Claus."

Richard Cain, manager of Clay's Garden Centre in Sunderland, where children must be accompanied by a parent, said it was a sensible precaution. "It is just a common sense policy that we have had for a couple of years. It's a sad sign of our times."

Selfridges in Oxford Street said it had always required knew of no occasions where a parents to be present when Santa had been accused of

Grotto. A spokeswoman said: We have had the same Santa for years and he knows how to behave with children. But we are dealing with young children and they can be quite frightened. We want to make it the best experience for them." She later added that the pol-

icy of insisting children be accompanied was less to do with fears of abuse allegations than parents using Santa's Grotto as a creche while they did their shopping.
Jane Kilpatrick, associate di-

rector of Kidscape, a charity which aims to help prevent child abuse, said yesterday it was necessary to maintain a sense of perspective.

"We know that children need positive role models. What could be more positive than Santa? We have to get a grip here," she said. "It's great that shops are aware... but having said that if we can't trust Santa, whither civilisation?"

Ms Kilpatrick added that she

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After six years in jail Britain's longest serving detainee waits to hear his fate

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

A Sikh separatist, who has been held in jail for the last six years pending deportation, will hear today whether the European Court of Human Rights is to clear the way for his release.

A ruling by the Strasbourg court in favour of Karamjit Singh Chahal, who has been in Bedford jail since August 1990 pending deportation to India on grounds of national security, could entitle him to compensation of up to £200,000.

The long-awaited decision follows a unanimous opinion by all 17 members of the European Commission on Human Rights condemning his treatment by in 1974, has acknowledged his role as a supporter of a separate Sikh state in the Punjab but has always denied terrorist activity.

The Government has accused him of masterminding and financing terrorism in India, but has never produced the evidence. In the 1980s, he was arrested three times and charged twice - but evidence in both the cases against him was later discredited.

Mr Chahal claimed asylum when he was first threatened with deportation in 1990. On a visit to Amritsar in 1984, he was one of a mass arrest of Sikhs by local police. He says his treatment left him with scars all over his body and permanently deaf in one ear and he fears he will

opportunity he has had to fight deportation in Britain was an appearance before the Government's security advisers, without legal representation, sight of the evidence or chance

to cross-examine witnesses. The EC advised the court that the UK had breached four of the guarantees in the European Convention of Human Rights: the right not to be sub-jected to inhuman and degrading treatment, the right not to be unlawfully detained, the right to family life and the right to an effective legal remedy.

If the case goes against the Government today, it will be under an obligation to introduce a proper hearing for intended



Karamiit Singh Chahal, the Sikh separatist, may have the way to his release cleared in Strasbourg today

The question of compensa-tion will also loom. Under UK bourg court to decide. law, Mr Chahal might expect to receive around £95 for each day though the final amount of any

award would be for the Stras-One of Mr Chahal's most persistent complaints has been the effect of his detention on his

daugher, Kiranpreet, and son, Bikaramjit, spent their teenage years with their father in prison. David Burgess, his solicitor, said: "We hope for an outChahal to start on the formidable task of rebuilding his

Defeat would be particularly embarrassing for the Gov-

visits him daily in jail but his come which will enable Mr ernment because of the degree to which accepted legal process has been suspended, coupled with the sheer length of Mr Chahal's detention on



Army faced march on empty stomach

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

The supply of food to the armed forces was jeopardised during the introduction of a new contract which was aimed at making savings in the £95m per year budget, according to a report by the National Audit Office.

The forces were nearly at the point of having to march on an empty stomach because orders for food were not reaching the kitchens as a result of 70 major computer programm "difficul-

Such was the chaos during the introduction of the new contract, in October 1994, and for several months afterwards, that NAAFI, which had been awardpetitive tendering process, had no idea where its stocks of food were being held and whether deliveries had been made or not. NAAFI was then unable to fulfil orders within the

hours. The noise in the commercial section is just 24 hours.
The NAO says that the problem was caused by the haste with which the Government wanted to introduce the new contract with NAAFI, which is seen as a possible prelude to full privatisation. Although advisers Ernst & Young had said that the new arrangements should be introduced within three or four years, the Ministry of Defence rushed the change through in 21

The new contract involved NAAFI taking complete responsibility for food supply to all 1,700 units, which feed around 100,000 personnel. divided between NAAFI and the MoD.

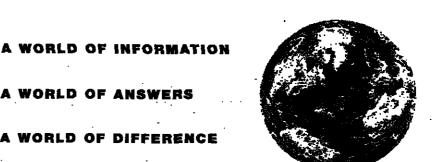
The report reveals that Boys. It shows that the armed £8 95.

48 hours specified within the forces annual consumption in-contract, but was allowed 72 cludes all the elements of high chides all the elements of high cholesterol breakfasts: 29 million breakfast sausages, 738,000 catering sized tins of baked beans, 30 million eggs and 260,000 kilogs of streaky bacon. Steak and kidney pies, 648,000 of which were supplied, seem to be the favourite dinner in the Mess Hall.

And some food was even unhealthier. In October 1995, cadets at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst were provided with a batch of striploin beef which was six weeks out of date. The report says that NAAFI was unable to trace the boxes and "a product recall was not done". Similarly, 1.5 tonnes of rotten rice was that the entire batch - 20 tonnes - was unfit to eat.

Du

Ministry of Defence: The healthy eating habits have not Supply of Food to the Armed percolated through to Our Forces, National Audit Office,



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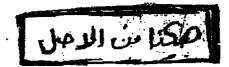
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HIV surgeon is cleared to operate

Landmark decision by West Glasgow NHS Trust gives hope to infected health workers

Nick Harris

A Glasgow surgeon vesterday became the first doctor in Britain infected with the HIV virus to be given the all-clear to resume surgical practice.

Professor George Browing, 55, an internationally renowned ear, nose and throat specialist, was given the news by his employers, the West Glasgow NHS Trust, following a year's deliberation and advice from an advisory body at the Department of Health. He said: "It's fantastic news. It seems like an awfully long wait for the decision, but now it's been made. I can get on with things. I'm in superb health and hopefully I've got a long career ahead of me."

Since going public with his HIV status nearly two years ago. Professor Browning has been re-stricted to a non-surgical role, conducting clinics and teaching at the Glasgow Royal Infir-mary and at Gartnavel General Hospital.

He said: "The hospitals have quite lengthy waiting lists for the surgery I perform, so my return will help with that." He hopes to be back in theatre before Christmas.

Professor Browning spe-cialises in problems of the mid-dle ear and the type of surgery he will undertake is performed with long-handled instruments, where the surgeon is "remote" from the patient. He is now able to recommence five such otological procedures, which are deemed risk-free to patients by the Department of Health UK Advisory Panel for Health Care Workers Infected With Blood Born Viruses (UKAP), the expert body to whom he first appealed for advice about his case in October last year.

"Basically, I will be able to perform all forms of surgery that would help a patient's hearing." said Professor Browning. "If you look at the medical facts, there is no reason why I shouldn't go back. Patient fears are not grounded in fact, and it is my job to dispel such fears."

Precautions will be taken with tool-handling procedure, as well as normal procedure, to guarantee safety. He will also be subject to regular check-ups.



ever transmitted the HIV virus to a patient. According to International Disease control studies, there has only ever been one case of a patient being infected by a health worker, a Florida dentist who failed to take sufficient precuationary measures. There is much more likelihood of a health worker

posure to patient blood. Medical director of the West Glasgow NHS Trust, Dr Adam Bryson, said that all patients joining the waiting list for otological surgery will be asked if

catching the virus because of ex-

No British health worker has they object to having a surgeon wer transmitted the HIV virus who is HIV positive. "No one will be under any pressure to give their consent, he said. However, I hope Professor Browning will be shown support

No patients will be disadvantaged by opting not to be treated by Professor Browning. Professor Browning, who is married with three grown-up children, is bisexual and believes he contracted the virus through gay sex. In December 1994, the

press discovered that a sur-

wrong doctor. Professor Browning made his condition public to avoid further confusion. Since appealing to UKAP a

vear ago, he has been waiting

while his employers, with whom the final decision rested, considered his case. The West Glasgow NHS Trust set up a special working committee to consider patient safety as well as medical, ethical and legal issues. The Chairman of the Trust, Derck Mason, said: "As a provider of public health care services, our priority has been geon in Glasgow had tested to handle our deliberation HIV positive and named the prudently and responsibly." to handle our deliberations

Nick Partridge, chief executive of the Terence Higgins Trust, welcomed the decision and said: "It is clear that Pro-

fessor Browning presents no risk to his patients. This is a sensible and mature decision based on the reality of how HIV can be transmitted rather than on public and media hysteria."

By the end of 1995, there had been 25,635 reported cases of

HIV infection in the UK. Yesterday's announcement will set a precedent in the UK for health workers rights. Professor Browning said that he hopes the decision would encourage oth-

er infected health workers to come forward without fear of

discrimination. Equally, it means they have a precedent with lines of discussion as to what is and what is not safe for patients."

For employees who work in non-medical areas, the case may also be a landmark, leading to fewer barriers to employment, such as insurance costs to employers which are 200 to 300 per cent higher for

infected workers. Professor Browning said: "The issue is public knowledge, not HTV."

Teacher appeals against bullies' ruling

Fran Abrams Education Correspondent

A teacher who let a pupil smack a group of bullies with a ruler was given a final written warning yesterday after refusing to make a firm undertaking not to

do the same again. Brenda Davies was told at the end of a two-hour disciplinary hearing that if the incident at Tennyson Road Primary School in Luton was repeated, she could be sacked.

Mrs Davies was removed from her infant class last week and asked to teach older children after she allowed five yearold Joe Middleton to smack six other children on the hand.

She has defended her actions. and has written to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Shephard, to appeal for her support. Yesterday, she said that she had acted in line with the school's anti-bullying policy.

"The headmaster maintains that what I did amounted to corporal punishment. I believe my action was in the children's best interests. I love children. I

do whatever is best for them. she said. Mrs Davies has 14 days in which to decide whether to appeal against the decision.

However, a statement from parents of all the children involved, including Joe Middle-ton, condemned the teacher for contacting the media. "She escalated a simple play-

ground game which had got a bit too boisterous into a major incident. We as a group of mothers are working together to heal the rifts that have now been created between our children," it said.

A spokesman for Bedfordshire County Council, one of whose officers attended the bearing with the school's bead teacher, said Mrs Davies would return to school today.

"For now, everyone is concerned to ensure that the school gets back to its normal routine. and that it is able to concentrate on what really matters here, and that is the continuing education of all the children," he said.

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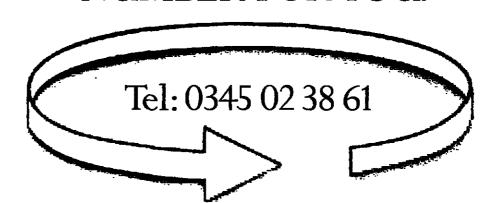


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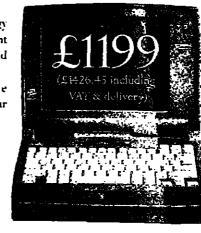
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Funds no

longer on

ice for

skate star

Nicky Gooch believes that the latest announcement on National Lottery funding for competitors could be good news for him. But

he is waiting for confirmation before he starts celebrating, writes Mike Rowbottom. The 23-year-old from Rochampton, who carned a speedskating bronze medal at the 1994 Winter Olympics, has seen his level of assistance fluctuate alarmingly in the last three years.

Before his breakthrough, he

years - scraping a living, relying on the support of parents and iriends.

"I was getting small grants from the Sports Aid Foundation, but we were talking a matter of a few hundred pounds, which was

nowhere near enough," he said.

Without my parents' support I wouldn't have been able to make it."

Spectrum ice centre, and getting

time on the ice in lieu. But even

then, it was a matter of having three training sessions per week

due to the pressure of bookings.

Canada, the United States and

Gooch, as is the British way.

succeeded despite everything

lack of funding has hindered

everyone's development. It has

He hopes that yesterday's news will change all that.

basically been a case that if you

haven't got a medal, you can't get

Meanwhile his rivals in Korca.

Italy were all getting as much time on the ice as they needed, training full-time in specialist groups.

That was the challenge. And

It has been such a struggle for British athletes." Gooch said. "The

He was working at the Guildford

found himself in the position.

common to so many British sportsmen and women in recent

£40m prize from lottery gives British sport its biggest ever win

Mike Rowbottom Athletics Correspondent

Britain's Olympic medallists yesterday welcomed the announcement of the largest funding package for sport in the country's history.

Announcing the initiative yesterday, John Major, the Prime Minister, said the Government would use the fund to put "sport back where it belongs - at the heart of school life".

The Sports Council will use a £50m-a-year "Talent Fund" to offer subsistence grants to talented individuals, on the back of an expected boost to National Lottery funding from the new mid-week draw.

The World Class Performance Programme, launched yesterday, will see new funding for up to 4,500 competitors who will share £20m in annual individual grants from National Lottery money, with another £20m going to governing bodies. The first individual payments are due next March.

The grants will be particularly welcome after Britain's disastrous showing in the Atlanta Olympic Games earlier this

year.
"This is going to be a great confidence booster for British competitors," said Paul Palmer. winner of Britain's only swimming medal at the Atlanta Olympics. "When you line up for an Olympic final, there is a tendency to think your opponents are bound to be that much better prepared. This means we can compete on level terms in future.

The new scheme offers Britain's best sportsmen and world's top 10 with world or with Olympic medal potential could get a maximum annual

award of £28,000. The question of whether payments will be taxfree is still a matter of negoti-

That kind of money would enable Palmer to locate himself closer to a top-class training facility. Before the Atlanta Games, he had to use a 25-megrants of £15,000 to £17,000 to tre school pool in Yarborough, Lincolnshire. In term time, he women, although "élite indi- had to rope off a lane from viduals" - those ranked in the splashing children; outside term time the pool was shut.

"It got me to an Olympic silver, which isn't bad," he said.

"But I don't think it could take me that one step fur-

Ben Ainslie, the 19-year-old Olympic silver medallist in the Laser class sailing competition, said the new system would help him with travelling costs and allow him to take his coach to more events. Last year he only went to two out of

"I also think it will keep a lot more people in the sport now they know this funding is available," he added.

Details of the plan were Walker, the Sports Council announced on the second anniversary of the sale of the first National Lottery ticket.

There has been widespread criticism of the lengthy consultation period since the announcement on April 1 last year that Lottery funding could be made available for athletes as well as facilities for competition and training.

The delay appeared even less acceptable in the light of the poor overall British medal tal-

chairman, defended the proce-

have been able to make it

Nicky Gooch: 'Without my parents' support I wouldn't

We could have launched this programme earlier," he said. "We could have gone off half-cocked, but we weren't ready... As a result of this careful planning, the programme is bigger, better and directly meets the needs of the coaches and mpetitors."

The new annual figure of £20m for individual competitors

body for the last 21 years, has tative to help encourage sports in schools and spread

"We were operating with inadequate resources, which meant we had to be extremely selective," said Noel Nagle, the SAF director. "We could only help 150 members of the British team for Atlanta, which left around 200 others unsupported. For the next Olympics, this scheme is going to help every-

The new scheme will be is 10 times what the Sports Aid tied in with former Test crick-...most £500m has been raised for

the love of sport among young-

National Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley said the announcement to provide the highest-level support for top sports stars was made possible ecause the Government has changed the rules on how National Lottery funds can be

ly in Atlanta. But Sir Rodney Foundation, the main funding eter Sir Colin Cowdrey's ini- sport, money which has pro-

vided much-needed support to sports projects right across the country, grass roots support

a decent grant.

which has seen awards made to 155 bowls clubs, 57 hockey clubs, 202 tennis clubs and many more.
"At the élite level, the Sports Council will announce soon its decision on the English National

Stadium, and in the new year the United Kingdom Sports Council and my Department will announce the winning "Since its launch in 1994, al-British Academy of Sport bid. she said.

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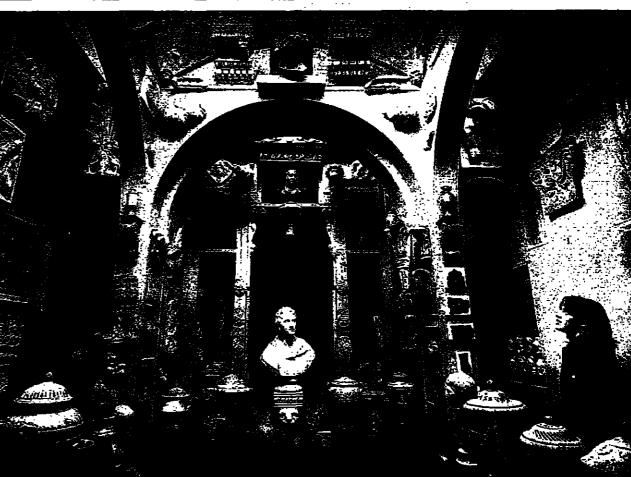
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Treasure store: Sir John Soane wanted his Lincoln's Inn Fields houses kept as he left them Photograph: David Rose

£500,000 lottery cash helps museum buy up its neighbour

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Thousands of sketches and designs by the 18th-century architects Robert and James Adam will go on public display following a lottery grant of more than £500,000 to Sir John Soane's Museum, one of the un-

sung gems of London,

The second anniversary of
the National Lottery was also marked by an award of £1.4m towards the purchase by the Woodland Trust of a 10,000-acre Highland estate.

The second largest-ever land acquisition aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the grant for Glen Finglas in Perthshire, will enable the creation of Scotland's largest broad-leaved forest and guarantee public access. The estate stretches from the shore of

Loch Venachar to the 2,883ft (879m) summit of Ben Ledi. Taking the anniversary total to more than £2m, there were

also HLF grants of £42,700 to the Yorkshire Museum for the purchase of a rare collection of 289 mineral specimens and £108,000 towards the repair of Skenfrith Parish Hall in Gwent. Built in 1843 as a National School, the hall is now the focal point for a population of just

50 villagers.

Lauding the lottery at a press launch in the former home of the architect Sir John Soane in the City of London, Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, stressed the importance of investing in museums and galleries at times of rapid change in technology and society.

"There is a sense of turbulence and insecurity," Mrs Bottomley said. "That is why there door to his museum. Together, is an ever greater desire to understand our roots, to actually stop and stare and wonder and

There is little sense of tur-bulence at the museum, which was visited by 76,000 people last year. Sir John stipulated that numbers 12 and 13 on Lincoln's Inn Fields, houses he designed and turned into a museum himself, should be left "as nearly as possible" in the state in which

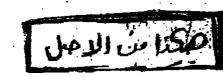
he left them on his death 1837. The collection includes two famous series of pictures by William Hogarth - The Rake's Progress and The Election - and an alabaster sarcophagus dis-covered in the tomb chamber of

Seti I, King of Egypt in 1300BC. The £533,816 lottery grant has enabled the Sir John Soane's Museum Society to buy the house he built in 1823 next

the three buildings form a fine symmetrical composition on the

north side of the fields. No 14 has never been opened to the public and is the only one of the many London town houses designed by Sir John with its interiors substantially intact. The present tenants, a firm of solicitors, can admire the ceiling mouldings but might regret the lack of lift in the Grade I list-

ed building. The extra space will enable the museum to display parts of the collection never seen before and provide educational facilities. In particular, there will be a proper study centre for 9,000 Adam drawings. Stored in 57 bound volumes in a large former wardrobe, the collection ranges from light sketches to coloured designs for chimney





Supermodel firm stays in the élite

The modelling agency representing Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Linda Evangelista yesterday won an inunction to prevent the use of its name by another firm alleged to have enticed would-be teenage models into "glamour" auditions in pubs and skit-

the alleys.

Elite & Premier Ltd, which has a string of supermodels on its books, was granted a temporary High Court order banning the newly-founded Elite Modelling Agency Ltd from trading under the "Elite" name reading a further court hearing. pending a further court hearing.

The well-established com-pany, founded in 1991, argued a connection with its namesake would damage its reputation and result in loss of trade.

Justin Turner, representing Elite & Premier Ltd, told the High Court his clients "were the owners of a goodwill in that

Outlining his client's case for an injunction. Mr Turner told Mr Justice Harman of the models who are household names such as Claudia Schiffer. Naomi Campbell and Linda

Evangelista. He then asked the judge who is renowned for once asking "Who is Gazza"" and inquiring about Britpop band Oasis - "I don't know if your Lordship is familiar with these

"Do I need to be?" replied the judge.
"I don't think so," said Mr

Turner. In discussing glamour modelling, the judge also queried the use of the word

topless. "It means precisely the op

posite," he was told. The judge said the word was "remarkable - as if they had been cut off at the waist which is exactly what they do not

mean".
"If you cut the top off it wouldn't be very interesting what's more they would be dead. It's clearly an abuse of lan-

Tax chief 'arranged night with prostitute'

An Inland Revenue official told an Old Bailey court yesterday that his boss had arranged for him to have a night out with a prostitute. He had slept with her but they had not had inter-

mer colleague Michael Allcock, the tax inspector accused of accepting bribes worth more than £150,000. Both worked at the Inland

Revenue's Special Office, in an élite squad charged with re-claiming tax from wealthy for-Mr Furze, who is married, said Allcock had organised a blind date for him in late 1989.

Mr John Black, for the prose-

cution, asked him if he had any prior knowledge of what the night out was going to entail. Mr Furze, now based in Witham, Essex, replied: "Not really, he just said, 'Leave it to me." A partner was found for Mr Furze by Michelle Corrig-.

an, a call girl and Allcock's lover. He and Allcock had gone to a hotel in north London where they met Ms Corrigan. "We lat-er met a friend of Michelle Corrigan's called Karen I believe, and we had an evening out."
They returned to the hotel and he spent a night with "Karen".

Asked if he handed over any

money, he replied: "The following morning she inferred that some payment was due and I said I had no idea about pay-ments and referred her to Michael Allcock."

Mr Anthony Arlidge, for the defence, asked Mr Furze, "Did replied, "No." He agreed that they had been in the same bed.

how he had lied under instruction from Allcock to mislead se-

He explained how he had heen seconded to work with Allcock on the case of Amarwen Kalo, a multi-millionaire Lebanese, who once invested Christopher Fuzze was giving £1.5m in the Highland Spring ridence in the trial of his formineral water business. The court has already heard that in July last year all charges against

In February 1989 two tax inspectors held a meeting in the Knightsbridge office of Mr Kalo's accountants. At that meeting he claimed it was agreed that the businessman should pay £50,000 in settlement for his outstanding tax bill. But according Mr Furze, Allcock instructed him to leave out any mention of the proposed set-

tlement from the case notes. He further alleged that All-cock told him to lie in a letter to Inland Revenue superiors by claiming that a settlement could only be agreed on neutral territory. Allcock had suggested a meeting in the south of France though the matter had been settled in London.

Mr Furze said they stayed at the exclusive Negresco Hotel and on their second night on the Riviera were each given gam-bling chips by Mr Kalo. which they spent at the Monte Carlo casino. Mr Furze won £200 but Mr Allcock lost. Later Mr Furze and his wife accepted an offer to stay in Mr Kalo's holiday vil-la in Majorca.

Allcock denies bribery and corruption. Also charged with him are Hisham Alwan, an oil dealer from Knightsbridge, and you have sexual intercourse David Shamoon, a property with Karen?" to which he developer from west Kensington, who deny all charges.

Girls, 13, kicked victim to death

Two girls yesterday admitted the witness statements suggests kicking to death a girl of 13 after a street fight. the witness statements suggests that the first defendant [the 13-year-old] kicked Louise Allen

charged with murder but the prosecution accepted their plea. Mr Justice Hidden adjourned the case at Nottingham Crown idence will be heard.

the prosecution, said a fight started between one of the defendants, who was then 12, and another girl near a fairground in Corby, Northamptonshire, in astride the other girl and at this point Louise Allen, he said, pulled the 12-year-old away. The 13-year-old defendant then intervened

He said: "It was during the next few seconds, and I use that timing advisedly, something be-tween probably between 30 and 120 seconds, that Louise Allen

The two, both now 13, ad- to the head and thereafter the mitted the manslaughter of second defendant did likewise." He said: "There is no doubt that the defendants knew that what they were doing was wrong. It is acknowledged by each of them in interview. Court for sentencing when ev- There is evidence to suggest they had fought before. But that Richard Latham, QC, for in itself is a long way from proof of the specific intent required for murder. In particular knowledge of the consequence of such a kick in the mind of an adult cannot be assumed in April The 12-year-old ended up the case of a child." He said the prosecution, having consulted the Crown Prosecution Service and Louise's parents, had decided it would be improper to pursue a murder charge.

Sally Bennett-Jenkins, reg resenting the 13-year-old, said her client went to the help of her friend who was involved in a fight "who she perceived was being outnumbered two to one by



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The day a chat with Arthur Scargill set Sue Lawley's heart aflutter



...and other TV foibles of the famous



Arthur Scargili: Had a on



Ditched filming in fury, and went to play golf



ask advice on recipes. and stove technology



Kenneth Clark: Inability to memorise scripts

a BBC executive tomorrow.

Foibles of the most famous

ciety Huw Wheldon Memorial

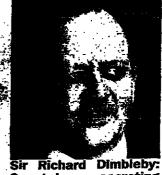
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MOTOROLA GRAPHITE

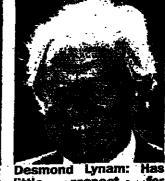
FREE LOCAL

Arts News Editor





Spent hours secreting notes around studio



little broadcasters' talents

Will Wyatt, chief executive of BBC Broadcast and formerly managing director of BBC Net-work Television, devotes his

and their audiences". While he is lavish in his praise of the BBC's best-known names, he reveals some moments they ight have preferred forgotten. Chief among these is the interview Sue Lawley carried out

with the miners' leader Arthur Scargill live on the Six O'Clock News at the peak of the miners' tached somewhere near her cleavage," Mr Wyatt says. "The sound man came to her thinking there was something wrong with her equipment - there was a strange battering sound. It turned out to be her heart beating at 160 to the minute -

twice the normal speed." Sue Lawley's heart may have thumped at the prospect of facing Arthur Scargill. Producers would quail at the prospect of working with the late poet lau-reate. Sir John Betjeman. Mr Metroland, Betjeman had diffi-culties with the metro itself. He and his researcher planned to meet at a Tube station, but had not realised they could have more than one exit and each waited for more than half an hour be-fore discovering each other. When he was finally brought

to the golf course where they were to film, Betjeman was in a foul temper, saying: "Oh, don't worry about me, I know I'm only the artiste and I'm the couraged this, devotes nearly all of the artists in his lacture to the least important." And he went off and played golf. Mr Wyatt remembers as a

personal disaster a talk show he helped to produce called Friday Night, Saturday Morning. It was thought a coup to get Harold Wilson, shortly after he had resigned as Prime Minister, to chair it. "He had chaired the Cabinet." Mr Wyatt says. "You would think that he could chair a broadcaster.

a television show. Well, he couldn't and we should have known that, to save him, and ourselves, the agony

"The guests included fast bowler Freddie Trueman and Tony Benu. After five minutes, I realised that this was the first time I had seen such terror in the eyes of interviewees. Terror, not that they would be asked something they could not answer, but that they would never be asked anything at all."

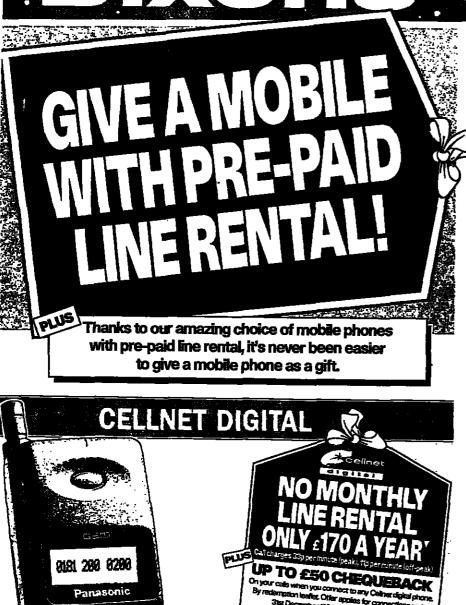
Looking back on one of the seminal documentary series in television history, Civilisation with Kenneth Clark, Mr Wyatt recalls that Clark could not memorise scripts and wanted to do the series from behind a desk. His producer, Michael Gill, coaxed him out on the road by taking with them an autocue and a new genre was born.

The greatest presenters had habits which they stuck to religiously. The late Sir Richard Dimbleby stayed behind in a darkened studio sticking bits of the next day's programme --notes of names, facts and figures. He also used his cuffs.

Mr Wyatt reveals too what Delia Smith is asked not just about cooking, but how to fix

of the praise in his lecture to the great presenters of the past.

However, he does quote an adage from one current star presenter. Desmond Lynam, who said: "If you're a sporting star, you're a sporting star. If you don't quite make it, then you become a coach. If you can't coach, you become a journalist If you can't spell, you become



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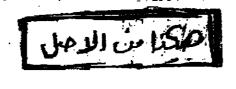
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THERE'S A GREAT DEAL

GOING ON THIS CHRISTM

dvice on in

Low profile for the Stone of Destiny as it takes the high road north







Abbey surveyed the tail-gate

Hollywood would have at least ordered up a tartan blanket. Maybe over-dubbed the pibroch tones of a lone piper. But yesday Her Majesty's Governnent merely stuffed the Stone

spart from a kidnapping fiasco in 1950, had lain under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey for 700 years, was beginning a 400-mile journey that will see it come to rest in Edinburgh Castle. The public will be able to see

As the central plank, nay coroffensive towards the Scots in the run-up to next year's general election, the stone appears to have been endowed with official mystical properties. The Secre-

Downing Street that its cultural power and symbolism were priceless public relations.

Yesterday morning the piece of rock over which every English monarch has been crowned nation Chair. As Big Ben was struck for the seventh time, police, officers from the Coldstream Guards, heritage experts from Scotland and the Dean and members of Westminster

one Scottish Heritage expert

Student died from rare lung ailment

An Oxford student who was believed to have died from an adult form of cot death in fact died from a rare lung disorder, an inquest heard yesterday. Rachel Steer, 18, a first year

classics student at St Hilda's College, who was described as wonderfully bright and cheerful", was found dead in bed at her college four weeks ago after she failed to turn up to an early-morning tutorial. A post-mortem examination on her body proved inconclusive and baffled doctors, who indicated that Steer may have died from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (Sads), a rare form

of cot death But yesterday Sanjiiv Maner, a pathologist from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, said that Steer died of acute cardiac failure with pulmonary oedema, a condition in which blood clots on the lung prevent oxygen from reaching the heart. hindering respiration and causing instant death.

Although the condition is common among young girls on the Pill and normally associated with old people, it was "extremely rare" in this case, as Steet was taking no contraception, Dr Maner said:

evidence of drug abuse, tran-

Epitaph on Himself

My fortune and my choice this custom break, When we are speechless grown, to make stones speak. Though no stone tell thee what I was, yet though In my grave's inside seest what thou art now: Yet thou art not yet so good, till death us lay To tipe and mellow here, we are stubborn clay.

Parents make us earth, and souls digrify Us to be glass, here to grow gold we lie. Whilst in our souls sin bred and pampered is, Our souls become worm-earen carcases;

Such privileges, enabled here to scale
Heaven, when the trumpet's air shall them exhale.
Heaven, when the trumpet's air shall them exhale.
Hear this, and mend thisself, and thou mend st me,
By making me being dead, do good to thee,
And think me well composed, that I could now
A last-sick hour to syllables allow.

John Donne was born in 1572 in Bread Street, London. He

John Donine was born in 1572 in Bread Street, London. He was a Catholic at a time when Catholics were terribly persecuted and lost his father at the age of four, circumstances which helped to set up complex psychological patterns within him. In adult life this complexity yielded his miraculous poetry although his friend, Ben Jonson, feared his verse would prove too difficult to survive. Poverty, secrecy, suicidal depression, a powerful drive for self-advancement and finally, when all other employment childed him, entry at James I's behest into the Church, formed this thread of Donne's life. The most celebrated preadition of his distribut liftle known as a roset, he died in 1631.

preacher of his day; but liftle known as a poet, he died in 1631.

So we ourselves miraculously destroy.

Here bodies with less miracle enjoy

By John Donne

DAILY POEM

quillisers or paracetamol on her body and the amount of alcohol she had consumed that evening was "not significant" in her death.

Steer, from Surbiton, Surrey, had gone dancing with a friend at nearby St Edmund's Hall and had drunk two bottles of beer before returning to her room at St Hilda's around midnight on

Saturday 19 October. Staff at the college were alerted on the following Mon-day morning after she failed to turn up for a 9am Greek tutorial.

She was found dead in her bed and there were no signs of disturbances in her room, which had been locked from the in-

Steer, who had been at Oxford less than two weeks, had wanted to become a barrister. At Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston upon Thames, she had been talented student, destined for an outstanding career.
Her parents, Clifford and

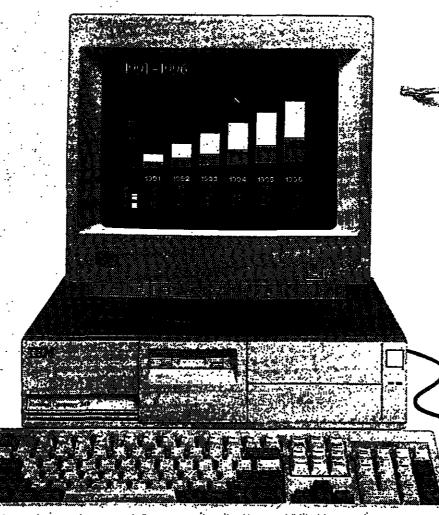
Christina, were not present at the inquest which took place at Oxford Coroner's Court Recording a verdict of death

by natural causes, the Oxford Coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, said that Steer died of a rare disorder.

"It is nothing we can take He added that there was no any particular precautions

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Brown sees cracks in 'economic miracle'

Chief Political Correspondent

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke was given a clear warning yesterday hy Gordon Brown, his Labour shadow, that the rise in interest rates would curtail the room for tax cuts in his Budget

Mr Brown said the rise in inflation would hit home owners. and underlined the need for a prudent Budget on 26 November. He said it showed that

cracks were already appearing in John Major's "economic mir-

The Prime Minister clashed angrily with Tony Blair in the Commons, accusing the Labour leader of pursuing "grievance politics" as he drove home Labour's pre-Budget charge repeated in a party political broadcast - that the voters would not trust the Tories on tax.

Mr Major told him: "What you cannot stomach is that the

ment has ever been able to put it." The Prime Minister said the rise in inflation from 2.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent was "a statistical aberration". But Mr Blair dismissed this as "ridiculous"

The rise in inflation reinforces a pre-Budget poster campaign by Labour attacking 22 tax increases since the 1992 general election. It is being backed up with a party political broad-

tackle the lack of investment which was the underlying cause of price rises, Mr Brown said: Two weeks ago, we had an interest rates rise. At the beginning of this week, mortgages started to rise again. Now we have the largest rise in inflation

for six years. "Within only two months of the Prime Minister declaring an economic miracle, the cracks

ness of the Tory economic would open the door to tax the Prime Minister's claim to have conquered inflation.

rates rise two weeks ago was 'necessary and inevitable", and it was now important to take action to deal with inflation. "We are demanding that we have a prudent and sensible Budget." Committing Labour to re-

record. It makes a mockery of avoidance which would cost more than £3.5bn, estimated by the Treasury.

Ministers privately welcomed Mr Brown said the interest the upturn in the economy, in spite of the inflation, but feared the Chancellor will be forced to raise interest rates again, flattening the lift it is giving the Tories in the opinion polls. Welcoming this week's 40,800 day's inflation rise, together

British economy is in better cast, modelled on a horror film. are already appearing, exposing verse any move to abolish capshape than any Labour govern-cast, modelled on a horror film. are already appearing, exposing verse any move to abolish capshape than any Labour govern-cast, modelled on a horror film. The interior fall in the jobless figures, the underlying economic weak-cast, modelled on a horror film. The interior fall in the jobless figures, the underlying economic weak-cast, modelled on a horror film. "Unemployment here is falling in a way that cannot be seen anywhere else in the continent

of Europe. "I don't think that is unrelated to the fact that we have avoided the burdens on business that so many of our partners have accepted and that would Mr Blair countered: "To-

with the sharp rise in long term interest rates, should set the warning lights flashing." And he asked the Prime Minister. "How do you square it with your promise, made just a few months ago, that you would meet your inflation target by the

end of this year?" Mr Major retorted: "I know the retail price figures are comhave been accepted by Lubour." plex to understand, but I think you have failed to understand the impact of the figures."

Dunblane

parents meet with

Major

John Major last night met parents of the victims of the Dunblane tragedy - just days before the Commons vote on handguns. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, arranged

Commons vesterday morning in advance

pledged not to use the tragedy as a political

issue if John Major allowed a free vote on a total handgun ban. The Prime Minister immediately ruled that out, telling the Commons at question time that firearms

legislation was not traditionally considered

But even before Mr Major's statement

the Dunblane parents said they held out little hope of persuading him to change his mind. Les Morton, father of one of the

victims of the massacre last March in which 16 children and a teacher died

admitted before the meeting that "there was very little chance, if any at all" of this. Mr Major's meeting at the Commons with the Dunblane group, including John Crozier, Martyn Dunn and the Snowdrop campaign founders Ann Pearston and Rosemary Hunter, lasted nearly 40 minutes. Denied their calls for a free vote the Dunblane parents and Snowdrop campaigners will seek other avenues of influence. One route is direct entry into the tHouse of Commons itself. Mr Crozier

has still not ruled out the possibility that

he will stand in Stirling against the Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael

Forsyth, at the next general election. Mr Crozier said in a BBC Radio Scotland

interview that: "drastic action" was now

needed. Even if he did not win the seat,

to see the parents at the House of

a matter for a free vote.

of the Prime Minister's meeting and

James Cusick

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS



John

method of debate to amusing effect. but the economy is far too broad a topic for either sidree questions. Some of his assertions (that inflation never fell below 7.5 per cent under Labour, for example) were also wrong.

Blair was able to send up both the style and the substance of what Major said. At one point he put on his special debating society voice to declare "I really don't think we've ever heard a more ridiculous excuse than that for a rise in interest rate figures".

THEMES OF THE DAY ?

The economy (Sidney Chapman, C. Chipping Barnet; Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown

The Social Chapter (Hartley Booth, C. Finchley) BSE (Peter Pike, Lab, Burnley)

The Crisis in Zaire (Andrew Rowe, C. Mid Kent)

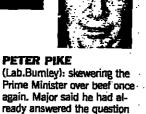
BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair chose to discuss the state of the economy focusing on "today's inflation rise, together with the sharp rise in long-term interest rates". Major responded to his questions with a mixture of commiseration for Blair's supposed inability to understand the statistics ("I will explain it to the Rt Hon Gentleman, so he can explain it to his backbenchers"), and emphasis of the good employment figures of Wednesday. Major may come to regret his explanation of the inflation rise ("a statistical aberration because of a dramatic fall last year").

PETER PIKE







several times on previous occasions. All he could offer was the prospect of continuing discussions with the Eu-

BETTY BOOTHROYD The Speaker allowed the miniing and catcalling from the Blair had to put up with a lot

Conservative benches to go on for too long before intervening. of waving and gibbering before the the Speaker decided to call

THE QUIP OF THE DAY Major ended his reply to Ashdown with a fine new Ma-

everything!"



THE UNANSWERED QUESTION Blair- "Will he now confirm that on interest rates and inflation Britain is now 11th out of 15 in Europe? Will he confirm it?" Major wouldn't, asserting once more that Blair "really doesn't understand". Blair gave him another chance in his third question: "if he disputes it. let him come to the dispatch box and say that that fig-

jorism. "I suggest he stops taking advice from his advis-

ers who clearly know nothing . . . about . . .

THE CREEP OF THE DAY

ure is wrong". Major didn't.

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Chapman: "Would my Rt Hon Friend accept that the drop of over forty thousand in the latest monthly unemplayment count . . . underlines yet again the success of the government's policies promoting job creation..." He went on for a long while in the same vein.

Compiled by Ben Summers

The poorest tenth of the population are now 13 per cent worse off than the poorest tenth when the Conservatives came to power in 1979, according to Government statistics published

The figures have been a political battleground since the

early years of Margaret Thatcher's government. This year, David Mitchell, the social security minister, sought to blunt the impact of the figures by publishing the findings

about half of those in the bot-

15 MINUTES FREE CALLS PER MONTH*

Ministers have previously suggested that, because the individuals who make up the poorest tenth are not the same ones from year to year, the misery of poverty is spread around. But the first evidence of "income mobility" failed to support

this argument conclusively. The figures confirmed that ensioners and lone parents at the bottom of the pile tend to be stuck there, according to Paul Johnson of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. "Single young peoof new research showing that

nle do move in and out, but they

PER MONTH[^]

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MOTOROLA FLARE

The figures undermine the Prime Minister's rhetoric, repeated at the Tory conference in Bournemouth last month, about giving people at any lev-el of society the opportunity to

reach the top.

The data for the period from 1979 to 1993/94 show that the median income for the poorest tenth fell by 13 per cent after housing costs, and taking infla-

tion into account. This represented a small recovery from the previous year, when it had fallen by 17 per don't tend to climb out very far, cent., partly because of unem-

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rears on their mortgages. richest tenth rose over the same

period by 65 per cent. Mr Johnson supported the

government's argument that the estimates for the very poorest are "particularly uncertain". He said: "There are genuinely a lot of problems with that group." But, he said, the fact that the income of the poorest third of the population has not

gone up at all in real terms, when the rest has gone up by about half, is "pretty dramatic".

Households Below Average Income, 1979-1993/4, Stationery Office, £30. ERICSSON PH337

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You can't buy better this Christmas

under threat says Harman

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Harriet Harman last night claimed the Tories could scrap the state pension after the disclosure of plans to require pensioners to take out private "top

up" schemes. The writing is on the wall for the state pension," Labour's shadow social security secretary said after reports that the Downing Street policy unit was working an election manifesto plan to require people to take out private pensions to replace State Earnings Related Pensions

The Government said the reports were "speculative" but support for the total privatisation of state pensions came from the Tory Bow Group in a policy paper by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Tory MP for Circncester and Tewkesbury. He said the current state pension was a poor investment and investing two thirds of national insurance contributions in a private fund could deliver £280

Alistair Darling, a Labour Treasury spokesman, said 500,000 people had been missold private pensions after a Government drive to switch said.

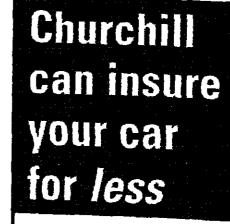
people from Serps. "People will be deeply suspicious of a Government with such an appalling

record actively encouraging people to do it again." he said. Figures yesterday released by the Department of Social Security showed that the bad publicity could be hitting the schemes. About 5.56 million people had personal pensions in 1994-5 but that was a fall of

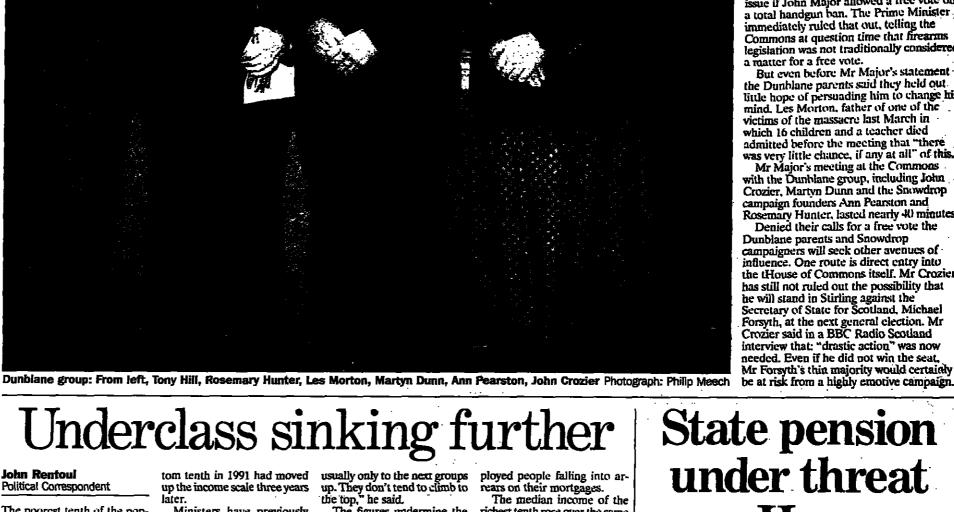
100,000 on the previous year. But in her first major speech since taking over the social sccurity portfolio in the summer, Ms Harman yesterday stated Labour's commitment to renew the welfare state. She said the welfare state must be ahead of economic and social change, not lagging behind.

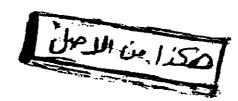
On pensions, she committed Labour to introducing a "flexible decade" of retirement, in which people could take reduced state pensions, if they wanted to retire early.

"Labour believes with a flexible decade of retirement the state pension could give significantly more choice about when they retire. It would make a significant contribution towards giving people more choice and fit in with today's lifestyles and work patterns." Ms Harman









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China feels Thatcher's handbag

Teresa Poole Peking

As she herself told her hosts, she was never "famous for remaining silent". In that respect, she remained true to form.

A speech by Baroness Thatcher in Peking yesterday was punctuated by just the sort of comments China does not expect to hear from visiting former world statesmen: "dismay" at recent harsh sentences for dissidents, warnings to China not to block Internet access, a reference to Qin dynasty bookburning, and a prediction that economic reform was "bound to lead in time to change in the way

in which China is governed".

In her familiar bright blue suit and pearls, she mused: "It is very interesting that the same Chinese people in mainland China ... produce a totally different standard of living" from that of Hong Kong. The answer, she added, was "the system of government under which you live". Visiting diplomats and business leaders do not display such forthrightness when speaking in China, fearful of losing contracts as a result.
The former British prime

minister declared that British rule deserved the credit for Hong Kong's prosperity but that "the success of the transition is now in China's hands". She warned Chinese leaders that the return of Hong Kong would "have the most direct and immediate bearing on China's reputation in the world". Lady Thatcher said she in-

tends to be in Hong Kong on 30 June next year, when sovereignty reverts to China, "to witness the undertakings so solemnly given by China ... being put into practice". It was, however, as one of the

signatories to the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on the return of Hong Kong that



Big blue: Hostesses watching a telecast of Baroness Thatcher speaking at China's annual business summit in Peking

Asked by a Hong Kong mem-ber of the audience what "timebomb" Britain had left to disrupt the territory after 1997. she retorted: "It will not have been Britain that created that time-bomb. I don't believe there is one. And you should not look or try to find one."

television viewers receive nightly teach-ins on the evils of colonialism and the reversion of sovereignty takes centre stage in nationalistic propaganda. Lady Thatcher presented an

alternative view. Hong Kong has built its own way of life and a level of prosperity [that] it

being under British rule with sound administration, a rule of law, a free enterprise economy, and private property."

On the question of whether political liberty and rule of law in Hong Kong will survive 1997, Lady Thatcher said "China will need to show great underwould never have had except for standing for Hong Kong's tra-

elected Legislative Council (Legco), and hoped China "will take the earliest steps to or-ganise free and fair elections".

On China's role in the wider world, Lady Thatcher paid com-

ditions, above all its tradition of free speech". She regretted "a consistent thread" in China's Peking's decision to scrap the history "of guarding against history "of guarding against outside intrusion, whether it be trade or ideas or people". In characteristic fashion, she

issued her own advice to China's leaders. "Never be afraid of public opposition ... Let pubgirl undergoes heart implant

Burials begin Hour-old baby of Indian air crash victims Cheyenne Pyle, a one-hour-old girl born with a

Adila Fatima, four months old, was laid to rest as India began burying victims of history's worst mid-air collision, which killed 349. She was buried alongside mass graves for up to 100 people in a cemetery 50 miles from New Delhi. "We haven't found the bodies of her parents," her uncle said. Authorities have identified 131 of 294 bodies recovered after Tuesday's collision between a Saudi Boeing and a Kazakh ireighter. Reuter – Charkhidadri

quits Cabinet

Antonio Di Pietro, who

helped sink Italy's governing

class over corruption, resigned as Public Works Minister after coming under investigation himself over

alleged irregularities in the

inquiries. It was not clear if

accepted by the Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, who

earlier expressed support for

his minister, star of the Milan

"Clean Hands" investigators

his resignation had been

way he conducted his

until he quit in 1994.

'Shoot-to-kill' Italy's Mr Clean warrants

defective heart, was given a new one in a Miami hospital.

Tests last month on Alberta

Pyle, 27, showed the left side

of her buby's heart was faulty.

from a baby dead at birth and

unnamed, city, Cheyenne was delivered by Caesarcan

section; the heart operation

After doctors traced a heart

flew it from another.

hegan an hour later.

Phil Davison Miami

Arrest warrants were served on East Germany's last hardline Communist leader. Egon Krenz, and three deputies after a higher court said they could be jailed if convicted of manslaughter. They have have been on trial for the past year, charged with responsibility for deaths at the Berlin Wall and border between the former two Germanys. The Supreme Court allowed former East German leaders to be jailed for "shoot-to-kill" and removed an important line of defence Mr Krenz had been using in the trial.

Latinos hit at Last service Republicans

More evidence that 1996 was the year Republicans lost the Latino vote came with the fall of Robert Doman. conservative Orange County congressman. After a count of absentee ballots, Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat, led by a few hundred votes, boosted by Hispanic electors angered by the Republicans' anti-immigrant message. Tim Cornwell - Los Angeles

Cult members surrender

Two members of the cult accused of last year's Tokyo subway gassing, which killed 12 people and injured thousands, gave themselves

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from Nastase

The ex-tennis star life Nastase, who failed to become mayor of Bucharest in June and this month failed to become an MP, ended his foray into politics and resigned from Romania's ruling Party of Social Democracy. Adrian Bridge

Kidnapper's finger of fate

Toru Odajima, alleged to have cut off his finger and mailed it to family members to fake his own kidnapping, was arrested after leaving a fingerprint on a form at a hospital where he sought treatment for the finger he cut from his left hand. Renter - Tokyo

Peking threatens Tibet's radical monks

Peking (Reuter) — China will defrock radical monks in Tibet in a crackdown that could last up to five years in an attempt to uproof the influence of the radical monks in Tibet in a crackdown that could last up to five years."

**Capital, Lhasa. "Reorganisation of monasteries." will consist mainly of people becoming more civilised," the official said.

**Capital, Lhasa. "Reorganisation of monasteries." will consist mainly of people becoming more civilised," the official said.

**For several months, China has been thus clergy and living off the clergy and living off newspaper has also complained that working. China has shut Dalai Lama in his Himalayan homeland, a Chinese propaganda official said yesterday.

"Lamas who are comparatively reactionary will be told to return to sec-

China has vowed to curb the influence of Buddhism and the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled god-king, in the

monks in Tibet outnumbered stu-

region, saying religion must conform to socialism. "Religious culture ... not ular life," the official said in Tibet's only hampers social development and

dents and more money was spent on monasteries than on Communist Party buildings. "Monasteries will not be closed

monasteries. The teams force monks into study sessions on becoming more "patriotic" and into signing pledges supporting Chinese authorities. There were 1,787 temples in Tibet [but] work teams will enter and be sta-by early 1996, with 46,000 monks and

paper complained that young Tibetans were entering the clergy and living off alms instead of working. China has shut many temples in Tibet in recent years.
"The spiritual realm is the main battlefield of our struggle against the Dalai Lama clique," the newspaper said. It claims that some temples have become the headquarters of separatist forces

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□ Romantic ☐ Adventurous 5. Your Attitudes (tick for yes, cross for no or leave blank if you don't feel strongly) ☐ Do you prefer town life?

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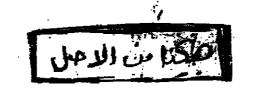
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Strikes scare off French bank sale

Mary Dejevsky Paris

The French government has halted the privatisation of the banking group CIC in a decision that appears to have more to do with politics than eco-

With popular discontent running high over unemployment. state budgetary constraints and the Prime Minister personally, railways. Even this, it seems, was the government's priority is to avoid a resurgence of last year's near-revolutionary street

The official reason given for calling off the privatisation was that only one serious offer had been received and that was considered too low. But the tim-state-owned electronics and ing of the announcement - on the eve of a public-sector strike that is expected to halt most local transport - suggests that the economic argument was not

The privatisation of CIC had encountered strong opposition from bank employees, and from politicians who predicted the end of regional banking in

sensitive time for the French government, and for the Prime Minister, Alain Juppe.

It was a year ago today that he presented to Parliament his plan for a comprehensive re-form of the welfare and public service pension system, precipitating a six-week movement of

The period between now and Christmas will be punctuated by a series of anniversaries of last year's "glorious protests" and the ever-present risk of a re-

This is not the first time in recent months that the government has shown extreme caution when confronted with any incipient protests that could

Three weeks ago, a plan to re-structure the state railway comcany was quietly shelved. A short announcement on the day the bill had been due for publication said only that it had been postponed. The bill had been expected to

set out a completely reworked and greatly diluted version of last year's planned reform of the waymen, with their pension and job worries, had spearheaded last year's protests, shutting down the national network for four weeks. The government is also

smarting from the outery that met its decision to sell off the communications company, Thomson. The protest was threefold: That such a giant of the French state sector should be sold off at all; that a company which most French people thought was flourishing (even though it made huge losses) should be sold for the symbolic sum of one franc, and that the winning bid should include the further sale of a Thomson sub-The next few weeks will be a sidiary - Thomson Multimedia to a foreign company. Daewoo of South Korea.

The public relations fiasco of the Thomson sell-off, which unleashed all France's pent-up anxiety about jobs leaving the state sector, state assets going to foreigners and the state of France in general, is likely to have been a big factor in vesterday's decision to delay the sale of CIC.

Whether it will forestall job losses at the ailing bank, or forestall a predicted shake-up in the precarious French banking sec-

tor generally, is another matter. Like the retreat on the railways, the decision may only have been postponed until a less sensitive time of year. Stand by



in power: Police grappling with a protesting student in Madrid yesterday during demonstrations against

Industrialist's son held by Eta kidnappers

Elizabeth Nash

Crisis returned to the Spanish Basque country yesterday after the son of a prominent industrialist was kidnapped, apparently by the separatist

organisation Eta.

The action follows a renewed Eta campaign to extort "revolutionary taxes" from the region's industrialists.

Cosme Delclaux, 34, son of a prosperous glass-making family linked to a powerful Basque bank, disappeared last Monday in Las Arenas near Bilbao. His car was found near his workplace two days later. Police believe Eta will demand a huge ransom and use the crime to frighten other

Basque entrepreneurs.

Extortion of "revolutionary taxes" is Eta's favoured method of raising funds for its right for an independent Basque homeland, and this is the third such campaign in a year. Some 50 businessmen and professionals have received threatening letters in the past month, demanding up to £30,000 for the liberation process" and offering to accept payment in in-

The Interior Minister, Jaime Mayor Oreja, admitted the recent lull in Eta activity was no

the recomposition of an Eta

The government has ap-pealed for recipients not to yield to threatening letters but to tell the police, but many will be too frightened to do so. A businessmen's leader said the kidnapping "worsened an al-ready intolerable situation" by heightening the climate of fear and threatening to derail mea-sures to bolster the region's

flagging industrial activity. Eta already holds hostage Jose Antonio Ortega Lara, a prison officer seized more than 10 months ago. Last April Eta released the businessman Jose Maria Aldaya, reportedly on payment of more than £500,000, after nearly a year.

The latest action has ended cautious moves to bring nearer home some of the 540 Eta prisoners held throughout Spain, meeting one of Eta's principal demands. That process was the fruit of talks between democratic Basque nationalists and the interior ministry. Basque leaders do not deny the existence of contacts with people close to Eta. and all parties see the need for political as well as policing measures to end the guerrilla war.

If confirmed as an Eta operation, the kidnapping marks the 76th in a campaign that has claimed more than 800 lives in

US will send troops to new Bosnia force

Mary Dejevsky

The United States confirmed yesterday that it would provide up to one-third of a follow-on Nato force in Bosnia

The decision, which had been expected, sets the seal on a new force of some kind for Bosnia for the coming year. It came as the nations involved in Bosnia met in Paris to examine other aspects of the former Yugoslavia.

The new multinational follow-on force will replace the present 60,000-member implementation Force (Ifor). Nato peacekeepers, including about

15,000 US, troops, are set to pull out by the end of the year. Nato's Secretary-General

said in Washington that the overall force would come from about 30 countries and be as large as 30,000 troops. His a durable peace in Bosnia. "best guess", he said, is that there will be 6,000 to 10,000 Americans.

"I can't guarantee it, but that's my feeling." Javier Solana said, after meeting with US of-ficials, including Vice President. Al Gore.

The decision will create some continuity in Bosnia, underlined by the conference in Paris. It agreed that the authority and powers of Carl Bildt, the in-

ternational community's High Representative to Bosnia, are to be increased and the post will be maintained for a further two years to oversee the transition to civilian government and

France, as host of yester-day's Bosnia meeting, was con-cerned to keep official proceedings on course and set the guiding principles for the two-year "consolidation period" in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Among them is a 13-point set of priorities governing weapons control and reduction, the formation of a civilian police force, human rights guarantees, freedom of movement, the safe re-

turn of refugees and "full co-operation" with the International War Crimes tribunal.

While all participants stressed the progress since last year, Mr Bildt and international representatives expressed "concern" that insufficient progress had been made in important areas. They were particularly unhappy about the time being taken to form civil institutions in Bosnia, starting with a gov-

In yesterday's "guidelines" the Bosnian presidency pledged "as a high priority to establish all the joint institutions provided for in the Constitution and make them fully operational as

soon as possible. The guidelines also included pointed reminders that provision of aid could depend on implementation of the

ace agreement. "There is a link," they said, "between the availability of international financial assistance and the degree to which all the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina fully implement the peace agreement, including co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal."

As High Representative, Mr Bildt is to have his role "reinforced", so that he chairs all "key" meetings with agencies working on the ground, he will be acknowledged as the "final

authority" where there are conflicts in interpreting aspects of the peace accords relating to civilian matters.

He will also have the authority to make "recommendations" to the Bosnian authorities. His staff is also likely to be increased. Whether Mr Bildt's 12-month mandate will be extended has not yet been discussed, but it appears to

The meeting in Paris is to be followed by a conference in London in three weeks' time to consider how the principles agreed yesterday will be put into municipal elections.

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The night a Florida town burned

At least five people were wounded by ganfire as the Florida retirement town of St Petersburg erupted in rioting overnight Wednesday-Thursday for the second time in

roamed the streets, burning buildings and shooting at white policemen and motorists, after a white policeman was cleared sponded with tear gas.

After the verdict was announced, black youths shot a 39vear-old white policeman in the leg. Another officer flying a he-

licopter was grazed by a bullet and three civilians were also wounded. Bullets were fired at four small helicopters hired by local television station cameramen but none was reported hit.

The usually staid Gulf coast town across the bay from Tampa - where blacks form 20 per cent of the 240,000 population - was Groups of black youths stunned by the latest violence in a predominantly black district south of the town centre.

Although the rioting was less widespread than on 24 October, of blame for shooting a black youth on 24 October. Police re-28 buildings torched, it appeared to involve more shoot-

ing and less rock-throwing.

Police and city officials blamed a radical black group known as the National People's refused to roll down his tinted



Democratic Uhuru Movement, which had warned that "the town is going to burn" if a jury acquitted white officer James Knight of killing Tyron Lewis, 18, last month. The officer fired into Lewis's car after the youth

windows and allegedly edged the car forward towards the po-

Although the jury of 15 whites and one black ruled on Wednesday that the shooting was "justifiable homicide", a police investigation ruled that of-

ficer Knight should have retreated instead of shooting. He was suspended without pay for

A local equal rights activist, Perkins Shelton, said: "All the officer had to do was step aside. Instead, he shot and killed that

boy. That shows how valueless black people's lives are in this community." Truman Smith, who raised Lewis, said: "To kill my son and then clear the officer is unthinkable."

After the jury verdict, the

St Petersburg's mayor, David named after the Swahili word for 'freedom' - distributed leaflets Fischer, called early yesterday for tolerance but criticised calling for a "community meet-Uhuru, Fearing that the riots ing" at 6.30pm on Wednesday. We will not be shot down in the may spread throughout Florida, streets like dogs," it said. "Get organised!" The shooting eruptgovernor Lawton Chiles said the state's National Guard was on

Archbishop who inspired nation in life and death

Rupert Cornwell Washington

It was the most public of dyings
- yet somehow Cardinal Joseph Bernadin, Archbishop of Chicago, suffused his own with a dig-nity, serenity and faith that made the last months of his life a national inspiration.

"Heaven's a little better place today," said one parishioners from the city's ethnic West Side when he heard of his death. The highest-ranking figure in

the US Catholic church died early yesterday at his home after an 18-month bout of pancreatic cancer. He underwent surgery in June 1995, but after an initial remission announced in August that the disease had spread and had become inoperable. A fortnight ago, he gave up his duties in the archdiocese. Even so, the Cardinal remained active until the end in

the great moral debates of his day - including a patient's right to assisted suicide, an issue now taken up by the US Supreme Court and which he opposed vehemently. "I am at the end of my earthly life," he wrote to the Court on 7 November, "and I know from my own experience that patients face difficult and deeply personal decisions about their care ... but creating this new 'right' will endanger society and send a false signal that a less than 'perfect' life is not worth living."

The Archbishop died surrounded by his sister and friends, having received phone calls on the final day of his life from President Bill Clinton and the Pope, who thanked him "for everything he had done for the archdiocese of Chicago and



Cardinai Joseph Bernadin:

the universal Church," according to a Vatican spokesman. During 14 years as a cardinal. representing the 2.3 million Catholics in Chicago, perhaps his most valuable service was as builder of conse compromise on issues which set liberal US Catholics at odds with

Rome - among them birth control, women priests and Aids. Moderate and quiet-spoken, the 68-year-old Cardinal commanded respect from all quar-ters of his church and beyond. Nothing, however, became him more than his handling of sexual molestation charges brought by former seminarian, Stephen Cook. Mr Cook, who died of Aids last year, recanted his story and was publicly forgiven by the Cardinal. Despite his embarrassment, he was stoic and

serene throughout the ordeal. Cardinal Bernadin had come to terms with mortality. "We can look at death in two ways, as an enemy or a friend," he said in September. "As a person of faith, I see death as a friend."

Swiss to discuss Nazi gold loot

The Swiss government has in-vited Greville Janner MP to discuss the Nazi gold affair in Berne next week.

Mr Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Education Trust and vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, will demand an immediate contribution by the Swiss to Jewish charities working with Holocaust survivors as a "significant gesture to the victims of Nazism who are fast dieing away". He will also press for speed and openness in investigating what happened to Nazi-looted wealth.

The meeting will be the first face-to-face opportunity for putting his case to Flavio Cotti, the Swiss foreign secretary, Thomas Borer, who is heading the inquiry, and Swiss members of parliament. Mr Janner, with David Hunt MP who chairs the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism, also opes to meet bankers.

Switzerland has been embarrassed by the storm of controversy which followed allegations that at the end of the Second World War it held on to gold which it knew could not have been obtained by Germany legally. In September, the Swiss

government bowed to worldwide pressure and announced plans to lift the secrecy sur-rounding its banking business to help the search for any such

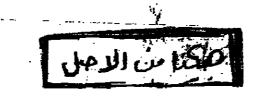
wealth left in its bank vaults. Mr Janner said yesterday that next Monday's meeting was further evidence of movement in the Swiss position. "It is very significant." he said.

Robert Reich, attaché at the Swiss embassy in London, said yesterday: "The meeting is to enable Mr Janner to present his queries and current preoccupations concerning the whole matter. From our side, we want to outline to him once again what has been undertaken and done in Switzerland." Jewish campaigners have

been pressing for action on the former Nazi wealth. Lawyers acting for the Wurld Jewish Congress last week called on Britain, France and the United States to delay distribution of States to delay distribution of Nazi-looted gold held in the Bank of England until its origin was established. It is due to be returned to countries from which it was plundered during occupation. Jewish organisations claim some of it came from private persons and efforts should be made to trace them or their families.



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Zaireans attack Uganda border crossing

MARY BRAID Kampala

Tension in central Africa increased still further vesterday as Uganda ac-cused Zaire of invading its territory. More than 100 men attacked a Ugandan border post and five peo-

ple - two civilians and three attackers - were killed in the incident at Noondwe, about 30 miles from the town of Kasese. Hundreds of villagers fled in panic,

Witnesses said some of the men

ers wore torn, dirty civilian clothes. It is one of the most serious border incidents between the two countries in recent weeks. Zaire has accused Uganda, as well as Rwanda and Burundi, of backing the rebels who in the past three weeks have swept through its eastern territory and taken control of north and

Zaire's claims that its neighbours have designs on its territory have heightened fears that the crisis in

place has recently been flooded also fied the fighting further south, with Zairean refugees fleeing fightor Zairean bandits taking advantage with Zairean refugees fleeing fighting further south on the Zaire-Rwanda border, around Goma. To escape the war between rebels and Zairean troops and the worst excesses of retreating Zairean soldiers, the refugees have been crossing into Uganda, travelling around Lake Edward and crossing

of the chaos. Shops were looted during the raid.
"We don't care if this was sanc-

tioned by the Zairean government or not," a Ugandan government spokesman said yesterday. "The fact is that this is a breach of our sovereign territory and the taking of our people's lives by foreign aggressors. We have sent in reinforcements. And nheeded, he said.

Martin Aliker, Uganda's foreign minister, said the attackers appeared to consist of Zairean troops and Ugandan dissidents, trained in Zaire. He said the attack reflected the general lawlessness caused by the crisis in eastern Zaire. He denied that Uganda had supported the Zairean

The area in which the attack took of Zairean army units which have lace has recently been flooded also fied the fighting further south, ith Zairean refugees fleeing fight or Zairean bandits taking advantage or border incidents had gone its border vigorously against any outside aggression. The decision by the international community to intervene in the crisis in eastern Zaire is partly motivated by a desire to en-

sure that it does not spread. The cross-border attack came on the day that Major General Edward Smith of the US Army, who has been commander of the Southern European Task Force, flew into the Ugandan capital Kampala with a 40-strong team to asses arrangements for the international operation to rescue one

start next week. The US assessment team yesterday moved on to the Rwandan capital Kigali.

Kampala seems set to become the gerve-centre of the operation and aid agencies were yesterday preparing for a massive airlift. However, the military forces must first secure Goma airport, which is held by the rebels. Entebbe, Kampala's airport, was at the centre of the 1994 relief operation aimed at the same million Rwandan Hutu refugees refugees facing the same problems.

British military experts plan aid for 1m

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

British and US military planners have arrived in central Africa to work out what the international intervention force is to do to help the 1.2 million refugees roaming eastern Zaire, and

how it will do it. Last night, contributors said they planned to stay for only four months, to stabilise the situation and set up aid and evacuation routes, before handing over to a mainly African peace-

keeping force.
The exact objectives of the international force, which may be up to 15,000 strong, were being thrashed out in New York and at a foreign ministers' meeting in Paris, originally convened to discuss Bosnia. The force will operate under UN Charter Chapter Seven, giving it tough powers to engage local forces if necessary, although most of the western powers providing troops, including Britain, want to concentrate on helping refugees and delivering aid. But aid agencies yesterday said the force must have a mandate to disarm the Interahamwe Hutu militia and former Rwandan government army, which have been terrorising refugees.

Without the mandate the force will only deal with the symptoms and not the cause of the tragedy. Oxfam said.

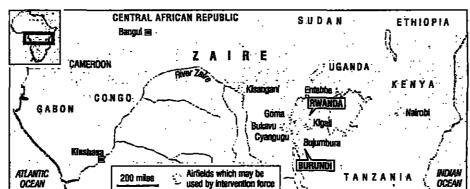
The US has said it will secure a three-mile corridor between the Rwanda-Zaire border and the refusee camp and airport at Goma, just inside Zaire. The corridor will enable aid to be hope, the Rwandan refugees to start returning home. But most of the refugees - Hutus who fled Rwanda and who fear returning because they believe they will suffer reprisals for the genocide many heavy weapons and the

back to Zaire via the Kazinga Channel further north in Kasese province. eastern Zaire might spiral into a There is speculation that the atwe are taking the attack very seri-The Ugandan government has repeatedly warned that it will defend tackers are the desperate remnants ously." Representations had not

Touchdown: The chief US military planner Major-General Edwin P. Smith (centre, in beret) and staff arriving in Kigali yesterday Photograph: Ap/APTV/pool

of two years ago, and displaced Zaireans - are now further west, and other troops will need to go further into Zaire and find them. Some are reported to be heading for the distant and iso-lated airfield at Kisangani, which might also become a base for the intervention force. If so, it would need a large force to secure it.

The three airfields in the immediate area - Goma, Cyangugu and Bukavu - are small and will, initially, be vulnerable. US and British planners are looking at Nairobi in Kenya and Entebbe in Uganda as major relief supplies and military equipment can be based and then flown the relatively short distance into Zaire.



large number of infantry with relatively light vehicles. They will also need many medical staff. logistics troops and engi-The local militias do not have neers to restore or set up water supplies, repair bridges and

can sustain a vast population already dving from hunger, dehydration and disease. be based on a brigade of rough-ly that size. The headquarters of the British component is

Military sources vesterday confirmed that Britain had been planning to send three battalup to 3,500 strong, and Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, said the force would

expected to be that of 5th Airborne Brigade, based in Alder-shot, commanded by Brigadier Graeme Lamb, 43. The Chief of Operations of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, Brigadier Jonathan Thomson of the Royal Marines, may be the senior British commander in the theatre. The Airborne brigade will control two infantry units, expected to be 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment and 45 Commando, Royal Marines, which were put on reduced notice to move yesterday.

The Paras exercise in Kenya with the terrain and climate, but 45 Commando usually specialises in arctic warfare. They will also need a Logistic Regiment, an Engineer Regiment

Rebels fire warning shot to UN force

Christian Jennings

Goma — Heavy fighting flared around the eastern Zaire town of Goma as Tutsi rebels sought to consolidate gains over their Hutu foes ahead of the arrival of a multinational peace force.

Underlining hazards awaiting a UN intervention force, firing from mortar, anti-aircraft and machine-guns boomed around the teeming Mugunga camp six miles west of the rebel-held town on Rwanda's border. Goma residents said they believed rebels were trying to take on Hutu fighters before the arrival of the Canadian-led force in a few.days.

Some estimates say Mugunga is now home to 400,000 Hutu refugees - one-third of the Rwandan and Burundian Hutus scattered in eastern Zaire by the month-long rebellion.

After four weeks of mounting crisis, Western powers have agreed to take action in Central Africa, but have stressed it would be a strictly humanitarian mission to help more than one million refugees and displaced Zaireans.

But even before setting foot in the Great Lakes region, home to an explosive cocktail of mixed ethnic and political conflicts, differences emerged over whether the mission could succeed with such limited aims.

The head of the UN's food aid arm said the force must separate "the bad guys with the guns" from starving refugees or its mission would have to be repeated. Catherine Bertini, executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP), also would be ensuring no weapons interfered with humanitarian work, ultimately, the fighters would have to be disarmed.

"The step necessary for

peace in the long term is disar-

mament, but if we're talking about keeping people alive and feeding people today, we would want to separate the bad guys with guns from the people who need to live today," she said.

White House press secre-tary, Mike McCurry, said Wash-ington believed the mission would have to be clearly defined and not try to disarm militants. But regional experts say that without tackling Hutu thugs, blamed for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, the humanitarian side of the mission will fail. Former members of the

Rwandan government army and the Interahamwe militia massacred an estimated 800,000 people, mostly minority Tutsis, before taking sanctuary with thousands of other Hutus after

Tomorrow: The beginner's guide to the Zaire crisis

Rwanda's Tutsis won power and stopped the killing. "This is a false start. As long

as the international force is not prepared to disarm the ex-FAR [army troops] and the Interahamwe, its objectives will not be achieved." Seth Kamanzi, an adviser to the Rwandan president, said.

Mr McCurry said the US commitment to the force involved sending 1,000 ground troops to Zaire. An additional 2,000 to 3,000 American troops would go to nearby countries to help with support activities.
The world community is ea-

ger to avoid a re-run of 1994, when it ended up feeding many of those responsible for the turned the camps into military bases for a possible comeback, infuriating the Tutsi-led goveroments of Rwanda and Burundi and sowing the seeds of the present crisis.

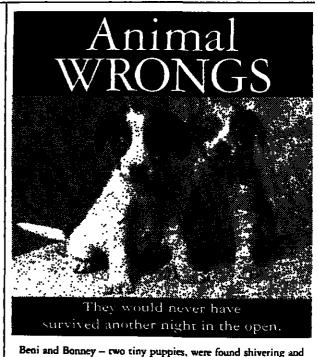






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terrified in a ditch on a freezing December night. Pitifully thin and covered in weeping sores, it seemed they had never known The Blue Cross gave them the first kindness they had

known, as well as urgently-needed veterinary care. After several weeks with us, the pups made a full recovery.

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Landa de la constanta de la co

Fred Lipmann

It was in 1864 that Manuel Lip-

mann founded the factory at Be-

sancon which was to create the

famous Lip watch. It was in 1904

that Ernest Lip worked with the

luminated hands so that they

beating the Swiss at their own

game. The days of French tech-

nological backwardness were

over. And in Fred Lipmann they

had a businessman who rivalled

Henry Ford in ability and char-

acter. He was himself a skilful

manipulator of machines and

had, in his youth, invented a new

type of motor-cycle. He organ-

ised his factory on the most

modern methods. He installed

a crèche for the benefit of his

many women workers, and he

decorated the entrance to his

factory with astrological signs

and with a portrait of himself in

conversation with Einstein.

His relations with his work-

force were equally eccentric. He

paid good wages and he was concerned about their welfare;

watch.

Tim Gidal

Tim Gidal was one of the founders of modern photoiournalism.

erte Presse, a forerunner of Picture Post, in 1929, the year he entered the University of Mu-

nich in 1929 to read History. He was born Nachum Gidalewitsch, in Munich, in 1909. of a Russian father and Lithuanian mother, and he came to empty pockets. Like many university students, he was hard up permanently in Jerusalem. and when introduced to Paul Feinhals, the editor of the Münchner Illustrierte, he grabbed the opportunity to earn money.

Photo-journalism was invented in Germany as a result of Oskar Barnack's little Leica camera. This beautiful instrument, introduced by the Ernst Leitz optical company in 1924, enabled photographs to be taken under circumstances previously impossible with the large-format cameras popularly used by the press in the 1920s. The potential of the Leica, and its competitor the Ermanox, was grasped by those who, like Gidal, saw the new crop of illustrated magazines that were appearing in Germany as vehicles for their personal expression and as a livelihood.

Few of them were interested in photography for its own sake. The doyen of them all. the eminently discreet and respectable lawyer Alfred Saloman, used his Ermanox camera as a means of access to those with political power and, among other nascent ohotojournalists contemporary with idal, only Kurt Hutton and Martin Muncaeszi had received any formal training in photography. For Gidal, as for Felix Man. Umbo. Walter Bosshardt, André Kertesz, Wolfgang Weber and others, the camera was simply a means to an end.

In 1935, after six years in which he spent more time photographing than studying. Nachum Gidal was awarded his doctorate by the University of Basle, where he had removed himself in 1933 as a consequence of a growing Nazi pres- Photograph: Richard Sadler

ence within the university in Munich.

Gidal had been brought up His first picture story. The in a religious family and had Vagabond Congress", was pub-lished by the Münchner Illustri-an early age. In Germany he had an early age. In Germany he had been active in the Blau Weiss Youth Movement, and a meeting with Chaim Weizmann in 1932 had convinced him that he should emigrate to Palestine at the first opportunity. Two months after the award of his doctorate, in May 1935, he photography through having went for a second time to Palestine and 12 months later settled

> For two years he struggled to make a living as a photo-journalist in a Palestinian Jewish community more interested in kitsch propaganda pictures than honest documentary. Eventually, however, his luck turned and he sold a story on the conflict in the Holy Land to Stefan Lorant, the charismatic editor of the newly thriving magazine Picture Post. On the basis of this and an encouraging telegram from Lorant, Gidal moved to London.

In 1940, after two years in Britain, where he had over 40 picture stories published in Picture Post - which ranged from stories on the life of the unemployed to a day in a beauty school - he returned by sea to Palestine. This arduous trip round the Cape to Bombay, then to Basrah and overland through Iraq to Jerusalem, produced many memorable photographs. But wartime Jerusalem bored Gidal, and in 1942 he joined the Eighth Army



The School for Beauty: Gidal o

as a photographer. It was here that he acquired his sobriquet "Tim" from fellow officers during wartime service with the army's magazine Parade, a morale-boosting publication modelled on the successful German military picture magazine Signal. Together with Bela Zoia, another talented photographer, he produced for Parade a regular stream of photographs and stories. Given the honorary rank of Captain, Gidal was turned loose to cover North Africa, the eastern Mediterranean and the wider Middle East before being sent, in February 1944, to Mountbatten's

Here he contracted typhus and was returned to Jerusalem. where he married Sonia Epstein, joined the Jewish Brigade. got bored again and was subsequently invalided out of the army in time to miss the Italian campaign and all that followed. The problems facing post-war

headquarters in Burma.

carefully about his future: should he continue as a photojournalist or take up a more secure career as an academic. His training as an historian certainly inclined him towards an intellectual life, but it was the birth of his son, Peter, later to become a reputable art theorist and avant-garde film-maker in London and the United States, which decided the matter and in 1947 the family moved to New York, where Gidal eventually joined the staff of the prestigious New School for Social Research. He remained in the US until 1968, when he and which resulted in numerous fine books, including Eternal Jerusalem and The Freudians. his wife separated. He moved to Zurich and they divorced in 1970, after which he returned to

live in Jerusalem. In retrospect, the decision to go to America was a mistake. Despite the fact that he and his wife achieved considerable financial success there through the publication of books for young people on village com-munities around the world, Gi-

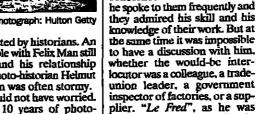
dal's pursuit of academic respectability ruined him as a photographer. Although his scholarly abilities allowed him to write Modern Photojournalism, Origin and Evolution 1910-30 (1972), the definitive history of modern picture reporting his distinctive photographer's eye was dimmed, something ultimately to hurt him more than anything else. Nevertheless, after returning from America he contined to build up a remarkable collection of historical photographs concerning the Jews in Europe and in Palestine, photographs and researches

For the last 20 years of his life, supported by his second wife, i, Tim Gidal sought to establish his place in the history of photography. An indefatigable traveller and organiser, he had his work exhibited widely throughout Europe and Israel yet one always sensed that he October 1996.

felt neglected by historians. An old squabble with Felix Man still festered and his relationship with the photo-historian Helmut Gernsheim was often stormy. He should not have worried.

The first 10 years of photojournalism were perhaps the best. Between 1929 and the outbreak of war, there was a flow ering of photographs that were aware of the orders of modernism and at the same time penetrated the surfaces of the world to make plain the human silences that art and poetry express. In this domain Tim Gidal's photographs excelled and there can be little doubt that his place in the medium's history is secure.

Nigel Trow Nachum Ignaz Gidalewitsch (Tim Gidal), photojournalist: born Munich 18 May 1909; married 1944 Sonia Epstein (mar-riage dissolved 1970; one son), 1980 Pia Lis; died Jerusalem 4



called, was not popular in And there was much that was wrong with Lip. In spite of its fame, it was small even in French terms. Various parts were manufactured in Besançon which could have been bought more cheaply from out-side. The electronic watch, supposedly the greatest invention in time-keeping instruments since the 18th century, was not appreciated by everyone and at one point you were described as

being a traitor to the working class if you had a watch that did not need winding.

More importantly, Japanese and Swiss competition got the better of Lip and soon it was impossible to pay the relatively high wages as profits declined. Lipmann was obliged to accept that a Swiss firm should take over much of his capital and in February 1971, at the age of 65.

he decided to retire. But in June 1973, Lip chieved its greatest fame. On 12 June a worker found a briefcase lying unattended in the factory, and when he opened it he discovered scribbled notes written by one of the administrators of the company that had ac-quired Lip. He discovered that some 480 of the workforce (numbering 1,300 in all) were to be dismissed and that the diversification of production which Lipmann had introduced when he realised that the sale of watches was declining was to be abolished. This involved the manufacture of machine tools surprised. Lipmann was an unand some products for the air

The news of these intentions spread rapidly to the workers. the majority of whom were members of trade unions. By 4.30 in the afternoon they had

Ayatollah Morteza Pasandideb. died Tehran 12 November, aged 103. Brother of Ayatoliah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of Iran's Islamic revolution in

1979. Jack "Tex" Evans, ice hockey coach, died Manchester, Connecticut 10 November, aged 68. Coach of the Hartford Whalers 1983-87. Former play-

occupied the factory and had taken two senior administrators prisoners, along with a government inspector. The police threatened to intervene and by Curies to create a watch with ilmidnight they had freed their prisoners but had seized the could be seen in the dark. In whole stock of watches. "We have lost our human hostages, 1952 their grandson and son Frédéric invented the electronic we must therefore have a material hostage" was the state-Lip was thus a great French ment issued by Charles Piaget. a union leader who had taken chievement. The French were

command of the operation. For the next four years the "affaire Lip" dazzled French opinion. Here was a factory, occupied by the workers, who sold the watches they had seized and who paid themselves, who went on to manufacture more watches and to sell them according to prices which they fixed for themselves. The prime minister, Pierre Messmer, periodically announced that Lip was finished and subsequently claimed that the affaire had continued because the newspapers had little else to write about and because his minister for industrial development, Jean Charbonnel, was incompetent.

Charbonnel in his memoirs, claimed that there was something about the workers mak-



ing their own watches, selling them and paying their own wages, which seemed to symbolise the romanticism of revolt. Many were those who proudly acquired one of the independent Lip watches, including François Mitterrand, but in cluding too many Gaullists.

Lipmann watched what was happening with mixed feelings. He condemned the administrators who had stopped making the diversified products. He condemned the government that was unhelpful, remembering how he had given one of the first electronic watches to General de Gaulle, who had accepted it enthusiastically. He did not believe that the workers would have turned against him. But he did not believe either that Lip could survive, even when it became a co-operative in 1976. It was declared bankrupt in 1990. Lipmann encouraged Jean-Claude Sensemat to buy the name

which, in this way, persists. The union leader Piaget has said that when all was over he received the most friendly letters from Lipmann. He was not usual man in every way.

Douglas Johnson

Frédéric Lipmann, watch manufacturer: born Besancon. France 2 November 1905: died Besançon 9 November 1996.

1948-58 and Chicago Black-

hawks 1958-63. Shizuo Asada, businessman, died Tokyo 8 November, aged 85. President of Japan Airlines 1971-81.

Dieocleciano Monteiro, died Oporto, Portugal 9 November, aged 94. Known as the "Duke of the Riverbank, he saved more than 700 people from er for the New York Rangers drowning in the Douro river.

Beecher Moore

Beecher Moore was one of the backbones of racing dinghy development in this country and a respected influence on the international sailing scene for

over half a century. sport was in realising what the public wanted. He was the marketing man behind Jack Holt, the designer of an estimated 220,000 sailing dinghies that enabled the popular expansion of trapeze used in a sailing dinghy boating from an exclusive pastime to a sport widely available a Thames Rater. This so im-

Born in 1908 in Rochester in New York State, Moore moved to Britain before his first birthday. Following an education on both sides of the Atlantic he first studied Geology at Harvard University, supporting himself for a year of his time as a waiter. The academic life did not suit him and somewhat reluctantly, as he considered business to be a dirty word, he joined his father in Britain in the family company, Moore's Modern Methods, producer of a widely used accounting records system. This remained his primary busi-

ness interest for many years. Moore's father believed that it was important for the boss to be the first to arrive in the morning as this set an example to oth-

it was then acceptable for him to leave after lunch with a clear conscience and enjoy the afternoon pursuing his own interests. Beecher Moore, following his father's lead, devot-His great contribution to the ed his afternoons to sailing.

From the early 1930s sailing became a dominant interest in Moore's life. Before the Second World War he was involved in what is acknowledged as the first - in the form of a bell rope on Scott, who accasionally sailed with Moore, that he later adapted the idea for his own International Fourteen, adding a belt to provide

better comfort for the crew, The invention was an immediate success and Scott won the Prince of Wales Cup in 1938. Moore's invention gave the users such an advantage over the rest of the fleet that the device was banned. He also experimented with the use of sliding seats to provide righting moment, having first encoun-tered them in Uffa Fox's

cruising canoe. Brynluld. Moore joined the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Burnhamon-Crouch in Essex and sailed in a number of J-Class yachts including Sir Richard Fairey's er employees. He felt too that Shannock and Sir Thomas Sop-

with's Endeavour. He was part of the crew of Endeavour I in the America's Cup challenge of 1934 when he was, uniquely, the only American to sail aboard the British challenger. After the war, Moore joined

forces with the Thames boatbuilder Jack Holt, as his sailing companion and business partner. Holt was a seat-of-thepants practical boatbuilder, sailor and designer. Together twice and the class premier they were instrumental in the trophy, the Burton Cup, once: development and launching of he won the Merlin champises that were resnonsible for the growth and leadership in dinghy design enjoyed

by Britain for many years. First, in 1946, the 14ft Merlin class was introduced. Holt and Moore together went on to win the class national championship. This was followed during the next 20 years by the introduction of many popular dinghy classes including the Hornet, GP Fourteen, Enterprise and Mirror, While Holt designed the boats and built the prototypes. Moore, in the background, was responsible for the ill-important marketing and development of each class; and the association of owners who in turn helped promote the design and ensure its continued

support and success.

Holt business to take in fittings, clothing, sailmaking and mastmaking; all succeeded and weathered the many storms that have beset the boatbuilding industry over the past 50 years. The original company is still active in south-west London under the direction of Moore's son, Chadwick.

In his time Moore won the 12ft National Championship ons in once a four times as crew the 12 square metre Sharpie National Championship; and was four times Hornet world champion. He was senior vice-president of the International 470 class, and a vice-president of the Amateur

Yacht Research Society. Over the years he was heavily involved in the administration of sailing at both national and international level. Moore served on many Royal Yachting Association and International Yacht Racing Union committees. He was chairman of the Committee for the Weymouth Speed Sailing Week: Com-modore of the International Tempest class; and an early advocate for international women's sailing. He was a Moore expanded the Jack founder member of the Guild



of Yachting Writers; its successor, the Yachting Journalists' Association, made him an honorary life member.

Apart from his interest in sailing Moore lived life to the full in many other pursuits. He loved good wine, art and literature. In his heyday, even before the Swinging Sixties, he had a wide reputation as a larger-thanlife party giver and goer. For many years he was a partner in the restaurant Parkes, in Beauchamp Place, London. From 1940 his main residence was a flat in a building full of barristers' chambers in the Middle Temple. Having been an Air Raid Warden in the area, he had

been able to secure a lease when

chambers were easily available

during the war and remained a resident there, much to the despair of some stalwarts of the legal profession. Despite spending most of

his life in Britain Moore remained an American citizen and declined an invitation to represent the United Kingdom in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, as this would have meant renouncing American nationality and taking a British passport. Peter Cook

Beecher Moore, vachtsman; born Rochester, New York 16 September 1908; married 1954 Bobbic Seal (died 1971; one son), 1972 Naona Lanier (one stepson, two stepdaughters); died London 10 November 1996.

Bank's solicitor advised borrower's wife

Barclays Bank plc v Thomson: Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice 15 November 1996 Waite, Lord Justice Morritt)

A bank lending money to a husband and wife on the security of a mortgage over their home was entitled, in satisfying itself that it had taken reasonable steps to ensure that the wife's signature had not been obtained by undue influence, to rely on a solicitor's assurance that be had properly advised the wife of the possible conse-quences of the transaction, even though the same solicitor was also acting for the husband and the bank itself. Knowledge of any deficiency in the advice given by the solicitor was not. therefore, to be imputed to the

7 November 1996

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Barclays Bank plc, reversed the decision of Judge Foley on 4 October 1995, and restored that of District Judge Ing on 21 March 1995, refusing Jennifer Thomson's application to set aside an order giving the bank possession of her home, following non-payment of a loan secured

on the property. Ali Malek QC (Eversheds, Cardiff) for LAW REPORT

& Co, Bangor) for Mrs Thomson.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said that in July 1990 Barclays obtained a legal charge over Mrs Thomson's family home to secure the borrowing on her and her husband's joint account. When the loan was not repaid, the bank sought possession of the home.

Mrs Thomson, relying on Barclays Bank v O'Brien [1994] I AC 180, claimed that the loan transaction had been to her manifest disadvantage and she had been subject to undue influence or misrepresentation by her husband. The critical question was whether the bank was fixed with constructive notice of this undue influence or mis-

The bank had instructed a firm of solicitors, Gwyn James & Co, to register the legal charge. It also asked them to Gwyn James & Co wrote back:

and her husband had gone together to see Gwyn James, who also acted for her husband's business. At one point Mr James had asked Mr Thomson to leave the room, and in his absence warned her: "You know that by signing this you are allowing your house to act as security for your husband's business." He did not explain that the charge was in effect un-limited as to both amount and period. Had this been explained to her, she would not have entered into the charge.

The bank acknowledged that in none of the other recent undue influence cases had the assurances relied on by the lenders been provided by their own solicitors, but contended there was no basis in logic or law why this should make any

His Lordship concluded there was no reason why a bank, perhaps conscientiously instructing solicitors to give independent advice to a signatory who might otherwise go unadvised, should thereby be disabled from relying on the solicitors' certificate that such advice had been properly given.

There was nothing in this case to distinguish it from Massey v Midland Bank [1995] I All ER 929, Banco Exterior Internationale v Mann [1995] 1 All ER 936, Bank of Baroda v Rayarel [1995] 2 FLR 376, Midland Bank v Serier [1995] 1 FLR 1034 and Halifax Mortgage Services v Stepsky [1996] 2 WLR 230. The bank was equally entitled to rely on Gwyn James & Co's assurance here, as had been the lenders to rely on the various certificates and declarations given by solicitors in all those

Paul Magrath, Barrister

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

HOCKADAY: On ** November, to Polly (nee MacAndrew) and Rom, a daughter, Emily Madeline, ofb 20e, a

DEATHS ROSENTHAL: Helen, died on 13 November in St Bart's Hospital, aged 47. Funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium, 3.30pm, Wednesday D

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be seat in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Ca-nary Wharf, London E14 5DL, tele-phoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gozette aning (or faxed) and are charged at £10 companied by a daytime telephone

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princess Royal, President Annual Health The Lattends the Ch. Lenham Commenda Day of Chellenham Rassaures (Almire da Day

The Lattents the Ch. henthan Country side Plas of Cheltentham Rancourte, Orlane Let Atter Princets Margaret, Pro-derit, Pre Koyal Scotten Scotten for the Pretention of Country to Dislate attends the Touch of Lattent fish in all of the society of the Beach Ratheron, Workster The Bullet of Kost. Colored-matched attends of Reconstruction of the Colored Registers and Justice at the Various and Nato Color, London SW.1.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

Mr Ed Asner, actor, 67; Mr Howard Baker, Lawyer and senator, 71; Mr J.G. Ballard, science-fiction writer, ise, Mr John M. Banfield, chairman. Mobil Oil. 49: Mr Daniel Barenboim. pianist and conductor, 54; Mr Andrew Castle, tennis player, 33; Sir Geottrey Chandler, chairman, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 74: Miss Petula Clark, singer and actress, 64: Mr Andre Deutsch, publisher, 79: Professor Peter Dickinson, pianist and composer, 62; Mr Martin Hammond, Headmaster of Tonbridge School, 52; Mr John Hobhouse, former chairman, RSPCA, 86; Miss Paula Kahn, former chief executive and chairman, Longman Group, So: Mr Brian Low, High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, 5th Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, former MP, 58; Mr David Rae Smith, chartered accountant, 77: Mr Paul Raymond, impresario, 71; Mai-Gen Joseph Shepheard, 88; Canon Enc Stuples, former chaplain to the Queen, Six Mr Sam Waterston. actor, 56: Sir Roger Young, former

Anniversaries

Edinburgh, 73.

Births: Georgia O'Keeffe, painter, 1887: Erwin Johannes Eugen Rom-mel, field marshal, 1891; Ancurin Bean, statesman, 1897; Hamish Hamilton, publisher, 1910. Deaths: Lionel Barrymore (Blythe), actor, 1454: Tyrone Edmund Power, actor. 1958: Jean Gabin (Jean Moncorge). actor, 1976. On this day: Isaac Pitman published his shorthand system. 1837: London was flooded when the Thames rose by over 28 feet, 1875. Today is the Feast Day of Saints

Principal, George Watson's College,

Abibus, Gurias and Samonas, St Al-bert the Great, St Desiderius or Didier of Cohors. St Fintan of Rheinau St Leopold of Austria and St Malo or Machutus.

Lectures

National Gallery: Jacqueline Lewis, "Wind (iii): Van Dyck, William Feilding, 1st Farl of Denbigh", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Chloe Chard in con-versation with Stephen Bann. "I John Saw Things: a 17th-century traveller in Italy". Ipm.

Janet Edward A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Janet Edward will be held on Friday to December at 2.30pm in

Chichester Cathedral.

Luncheons Maple Leaf Club Ms Diana Jervis-Read, Cultural Attache for Canada in the UK was the guest of honour at a luncheon meeting of the Maple Leaf Club held yesterday at the Royal Over-Seas League, London SW1. Mrs Judith M.

Steiner presided, Mr Graham Wiffen. Head of Public Affairs, London Arts Board, also spoke. Receptions

Maritime Foundation Countess Mountbatten of Burma, President of the British Maritime Charitable Foundation, presented the 1996 Desmond Wettern Maritime Media Award at a reception held yesterday evening on board HQS Bellington, to Mr Richard Scott. Captain Ashe Lincoln QC RNR presided. Mr Robert White was the speaker.

Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Mr Malcolm Rifkind QC MP. Secretars of State for Foreign and Com-monwealth Affairs, hosted a dinner vesterday evening at 1 Carlton Gar-dens, London SW1, in bonour of the President of Lutvia and Mrs Ulmane.

Grav's Inn Mr Conrad Dehn QC, Treasurer of Gray's Inn. and Masters of the Bench, hosted a dinner yesterday evening in Hall, London WCI, to mark Grand Day of the Michaelmas Term. Among those present were: Term. Among those present were:
Lord Benton of Huntingdon: Lord Griffiths
of Griffon, Lord Borrer of Abbots Morron,
Lord Therme QC. President of PRIMA Europe Lide Sir Rachard Scott, View Channelling
of the Supreme Court. Lord Justice Price Gibson, Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn: Lady
Greengross, Ducetro-General, Age Concern,
Mr Edward Singer QC. Treasurer of the Inner Europic, Mr Michael Sherrard QC, Treasource of the Middle Empley. Mr FeanesJacoby, QC. Advocate General of the Court
of Justice of the Luropean Gammaniaes. Mr David Paux-Davic QC, Chamman of the General Council of the Bar: Clanon Em. James,
Mr David Machin, Under-Treasurer of Gray's
Inn.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.56pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387-4300. Fed-United Synagogues: 0171-387-390. Fed-cration of Synagogues: 0181-302 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Syna-gogues: 0171-588 1663. Reform Syna-gogues of Great Britain: 0181-349-4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congrega-tion: 0171-289 2573. New London Syna-gogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

representation.

explain the legal charge to Mrs Thomson "so that she is fully aware of what she is signing' We have explained the full content of the legal charge to Mrs Thomson

the bank: Miles Croally (Clement Jones and she is aware of what she has signed and that the property is be-ing used to secure borrowing on the ioint bank account. Mrs Thomson said that she

difference.

Mrs Thomson argued that the bank had constructive notice of her husband's presumed or actual unduc influence over her, since, in advising her as to the effect of the charge. Gwyn James & Cowere acting as the bank's solicitors and agents, not hers. Knowledge of any deficiency in that advice was to be imputed to the bank so as to disentitle them from relying on the solicitors' assurance.

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tinger of fate

By themselves the polls might not be causing consternation in the Labour Party. You do not have to be much of an arithmetician to work out that the rate of attrition of Labour's lead is going to have to rise if the Tories are to break through by the time an election has to be held next spring. But we all tend to ignore the small print: polling reports generally banish the don't knows or won't says to a footnote, even though together they equal or exceed Labour's lead. Besides, polls show opinion in a rear-view mirror. In a few weeks they are going to pick up what has been going on during the past few days - and when they do, they will make startling reading for anyone (the leadership of the Labour Party included) who has ruled the Tories out as election winners.

The change has been signalled recently by a loud noise – a sort of clunk-click. Two ends of a Tory political ical project came together. One is anti-Europe, neatly packaged in the European Court of Justice's decision on working hours. The other is economic competence, tagged yesterday by the latest unemployment figures, and bolstered by healthy signs on the housing and consumer confidence front. Put them together and it becomes plausible

port for the Tories ratchets up with each successive poll.

Discoussional voice for the party winter with the ach successive poll.

Discoussional voice for the party winter with the party winter with the party winter the party embourg lawyers and their meddling

> For a divided party it's a potent tonic.
>
> If Kenneth Clarke follows through with a prudent budget that does not charge off down the tax-cutting road, but instead chooses to emphasise sensible long-term economic management in everyone's interest, then the Tory claim to confidence and competence could become a powerful electoral mix, even in the very few months remaining. Cool Britannia, indeed. No wonder Tory tails are up.

It bears repeating: the key to election success is the perception of economic competence. The Tory plot is a neat one: first, to imply that our recent economic gains (relative to the rest of Europe) are a consequence of running a deregulated, liberalised market econ-omy, and secondly that, in turn, the imposition of a 48-hour week is an obstruction to that economic success. Vote Labour, John Major will argue, and you will see our economic advantage sliced off at the neck by Eurocrats

determined to level our economy down.

It is a neat plot, and it may yet work.
But it is only one plot. Labour's trouble of late is that Mr Blair and his strategic team seem to be sunk in the torpor of their long-standing opinion-poll lead. for the Conservatives to argue that Some shadow ministers have taken to



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON EM 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-298 2000 / 0171-845 2000 FAX 0171-298 2435 / 0171-845 2485

swanning around the political circuit as mula for pre-election unity. Labour if they were merely killing time until the ministerial Rover draws up before their front door, Labour has turned itself into the passive party, sitting back while the unpopularity of the Tories does it for them - all the while striving to keep their noses clean and their feet clear of the potholes. All this is unimpressive, yes, but rational if the attitude surveys continue to suggest that this is still basically an election for the Tories to lose. But now the Tories have, for the first time in many, many months, a convincing battle plan that will also provide something of a for-

passivity will no longer do.

In spite of a good show by Robin Cook, Labour has let the Tories seize the initiative on working hours. Europe, and the economy. Some of the reasons for Labour's slow-footedness lie in the intellectual ambiguities of new Labour. The party is still uncertain about the role of government in economic life. It has found itself unable to say with any vigour, for example, that the state is a legitimate protector of workers' rights, that in an age when collective bargaining benefits the few, rather than the many, government has

inevitable imbalance between employer and fast, to the fact that the Tories are and employee, and that treating staff starting to roll. If Labour wants to win. fairly is a positive attribute of economic modernism. But you do not need theoretical refinement to say – as even President Clinton can say – that the little person sometimes needs protection, in the form of minimum wages (a hot ticket for the Democrats) or stateregulated maximum hours.

Labour at present lacks the confidence to pitch for positive appeal. Its appeal (as yesterday) is essentially negative: "Enough is enough" is not a campaign slogan, it's un admission that Labour has nothing enterprising to say. Somehow, and soon, Labour has to reclaim the campaigning agenda detach the issue from Europe, and repatriate it as one of domestic fair

Public opinion is not fixed, and on jobs it might well respond to some rough wooing. The British people have not converted en bloc to neo-liberalism. There is plenty of evidence that public attitudes towards work and the labour market have survived the Tory era and the decline of the trade unions pretty much unchanged. Tony Blair has surely known all along that the election was going to be harder fought than the polls suggested, that the Tories were not, for all the talk of death wishes and the genuine evidence there is of their power fatigue, going to hand him the contest.

a permanent duty to redress the He and his henchfolk need to wake up. it cannot let the argument slip across to the Tory agenda, as it has steadily been doing these past few weeks.

He started so he'll finish

o farewell then, Britain's favourite Icelander. Masterminal succeeded In netting a wide spread of contestants. Teachers and civil servants were always over-represented, true, but it roped in the occasional taxi driver and blue collar worker who had left school early, but kept on learning. Perhaps, like, everything else. Muster-mind's ultimate demise lay in the recipe for its success - mixing general knowledge with esoteric specialisation. In the end, anoraks had no need for an excuse to be boring. Mustermind was at its best when you had at least a chance of tollowing the special subject - or the unpredictability of a specialist in Marilyn Monroe, or the sex life of ladybirds, just to keep our interest.

One question though. How much will that chair be worth in a decade's

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Families hit by ever-longer hours of work

Sir: John Major is so wrong concerning the working week "Tory plan to sabotage EU deal on hours and holidays", 12 November). In my professional life I come across many people (usually men) who are being pressured by employers to work longer and

longer hours.
The pressure can very subtle at times. Employers can hint that others are willing to this, or th promotional prospects may be less if extra work is not taken, or even that should redundancy come around, those less willing to work longer nours would be the first to .

The result is that many people are under pressure to work tremendously long hours, often including a Saturday and often having to bring work home on a Sunday. The damage done to families is incalculable.

Then there are other families where the wage-earner is either unemployed or in a very low-paid job. Here the family is under

serious financial pressure.

The Tory party claims to be the party of the family, yet its refusal to accept the Social Chapter, with limits on the working week and a minimum wage, is doing serious damage to our nation's families. The Rev MIKE BOSSINGHAM Maidenhead, Berkshîre

Sir: The assertion that there is medical evidence which indicates that long working hours lead to ill health seems to me misguided. I would challenge the experts quoted ("Long days can damage your health, say scientists", 13 November) to produce this evidence, if it exists. Junior doctors have recently had hours reduced. but has their health improved?

There is a widespread feeling around that "stress", which many of us feel we understand but few of us could define, causes illness. But this is a supposition, not a fact. Where is the evidence that long hours of work cause gastrointestinal problems, as your article implied?

If I were to contend that "stress" is actually good for you if it leads to a sense of achievement, there are no scientists who could prove me wrong. What matters is the nature of work, not its duration. PAUL KELLY Divestive Disease Research Centre,

St Bartholomew's, and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry.

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Sir: The members of the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Court of Justice must be increasingly frustrated by the behaviour of the United Kingdom government. How can we assure them that the views of John Major and his cabinet are not the views of a large percentage of the UK

Most ordinary British people desire the implementation of the Social Chapter, want a minimum wage and applaud the decision of the court about working hours and paid holidays. They long for greater European integration, the strength of a single currency and the **Opportunities that the European**

Union offers to us ali. Many of us are embarrassed by the UK government's lack of action on BSE and their response to the generous financial aid offered by our European neighbours. We



need Brussels and Strasbourg to fight the Westminster government on our behalf. Many of us consider ourselves to be Europeans first and British second; our greatest fear is of losing our European citizenship, which would be a disaster for our country but a personal tragedy for

us as individuals. We need help and protection from a government that is dictatorial, unrepresentative and acts on behalf of a small economic élite by oppressing the majority of UK citizens. We should be grateful for the European Union's continuing support and can only hope that our partners' patience does not run out. PAUL MILLER European Citizen

Sir: I never thought that Great Britain would allow itself to be taken over. I always trusted our politicians to protect us, but suddenly we discover that European law is now the supreme law of this land. That is why this week John Major, once again, hasbeen sent packing - and always will.
We were promised no loss of

national sovereignty when we were urged to stay in the Common Market in the 1975 referendum. We have been terribly deceived and the deceit goes on. British sovereignty belongs to the British people - not to the politicians. It is up to us to say "yes" or "no" to the supremacy of Brussels over our nation, to unclected bureaucrais forcing irreversible laws on to us. CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON ZAWADSKI . Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, The Referendum Party

North Yorkshire

Sir. On the day the Government makes its brave stand against the EU's directive on working hours, you carry reports of 250 million children at work throughout the world (12 November). I hope John Major will be equally forceful in his support for other countries' right to maintain their hard-won competitive edge. JOHN CARY

Malaysia shares E Timor blame

Sir: Your report on the vicious break-up of the East Timor conference in Kuala Lumpur (11 November) raises important questions about Malaysia's role in the East Timor tragedy. It is one thing for Malaysia, as Indonesia's neighbour and close regional partner within the Association of South East Asian Nations to show solidarity with Jakarta on this issue, quite another to provide gratuitous additional assistance.

Take the case of the East Timorese academic Mr Helder da Costa, one of the participants in the Kuala Lumpur event, who is currently enrolled in a degree course in Adelaide, South Australia. As the holder of a valid re-entry visa for Australia and someone with temporary residency rights in Australia (where he went to escape Indonesian oppression in East Timor), he should have been

allowed to return there when Malaysia began to deport the foreign conference participants earlier this week. Instead, he was returned, against his will, to Jakarta, where he was promptly arrested and taken into temporary custody by the Indonesian

With Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, accusing the West of double standards over human rights issues, particularly with regard to Bosnia, Kuala Lumpur's own record may now be in for longto start than last Saturday's brutally aborted East Timor conference? Dr PETER CAREY Fellow & Tutor in Modern History Trinity College

Wartime light on air crash

Sir: You reported (9 November) Pierre Salinger's claim that TWA 800 might have suffered from "friendly fire". The favoured alternative seems to be a "mechanical" failure – actually an electrochemical explosion in a fuel

In 1943 I was the (ground) engineer to No 241 Squadron, Hurricane bombers, in North Africa. In successive weeks; the aircraft of a flight commander and of his successor were seen to explode in mid-air whilst dive-

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Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

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bombing enemy positions. In each case, the "No 2" behind them reported no sign of enemy

To restore confidence, and especially the morale of the new, third, flight commander, we carried out comprehensive checks on all the aircraft, such as testing the venting of fuel tanks, possible fuel spillages within the wings and fuselage, the earthing of the electrical system, and especially the fuel contents sensors. Nothing was found amiss

At the end of the campaign, vhen the enemy had been captured or driven out of Tunisia. the sites of both crashed aircraft were available to be visited; and they were carefully inspected. It was at once seen that each aircraft had suffered an antiaircraft shell burst directly below the centre of the fuselage. Such a burst would not have been seen by the "No 2".

For TWA 800, you reported investigators as saying "that, with 95 per cent of the plane recovered, there was no place in the fuselage ... through which a missile might have travelled. I was at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough in 1954, working on anti-aircraft missiles, when the remains of the Comet salvaged from the Mediterranean were being examined. I am somewhat sceptical of the positive certainty of that statement. Air Marshal Sir REGINALD EW HARLAND Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Noisy toys in the garden

Sir: My observation is that tidyminded gardening ("How does your garden vac?", 13 November) is largely a male phenomenon and can be explained as an extension of housework for neurotic men too chauvinistic to lend a hand around

Ann Treneman doesn't mention, however, that the worst aspect of this silliness is noise pollution: a fast-growing breed of underoccupied males is rapidly destroying every scrap of peace and quiet in their own non-working hours. If we are to allow these idle creatures to play with their noisy toys, we should is their inadequacies that are being tolcrated, and not their virtues ANGELA PARTINGTON

Appleton, Oxfordshire

Interpreting art

Sir: Andrew Graham-Dixon "Spreading the Word", 12 November) is "disconcerted" that the Tate offers its audience video tapes about the artists taking part in this year's Turner Prize - because he considers that the tapes reduce the experience of the work by

providing interpretations. In his article, he then gets on with the job he is paid for as an art critic - providing interpretations. Are we to take it that some interpretations are less reductive

than others? CHRISTOPHER SPENCER Director of Turner Prize video tapes for Channel Four London WCI

Time to break the silence

Sir: I feel uneasy about a permanent two-minute silence on Armistice Day. The First World War ended nearly 80 years ago, the Second over 50 years. The British Legion continues to do an excellent job in caring for survivors, but naturally the numbers must be declining.

Does there not come a time, as there has with many previous wars, when it is no longer appropriate to remember the dead and injured in every public way? By all means let us continue to have Poppy Day so iong as th rre are veterans of an conflict to support. It is procably also right to conaf... an official Day of "lememorance to which people, either in chur thor elsewhere, can voluntarily go.

But the time has come when the two-minute silence must be put behind us, certainly as something that politicians, the media and business feel frightened of saving "no" to. True remembrance must come from the heart and head. JAMES SEYMOUR Harrow, Middlesex

Supermarkets in a metric muddle

Sir: Stephen R Ridge (letter. November 13) claims that I have confused metrication with unit pricing; I have not. His claim that all pre-packed goods have to be sold in metric measures is a moot point.

The law requires that metric units be used as the primary size indicator. This, to me, is not the same as selling metric packs. The original draft legislation for last October's changes gave prescribed quantities for ground coffee of multiples of 250g only, and for milk (apart from returnable bottles), multiples of 200ml and 250ml.

However, by the time the law entered the statute books, these requirements had been watered down to permit the continued existence of non-metric sizes, as long as the metric equivalent came first on the label. Hence consumers are faced with packs which look similar, but which vary by 10 per cent in size. Unit-pricing on a tiny shelf-edge label is not an adequate remedy for this confusion, especially for the elderly or visually impaired. CHRIS KEENAN Liverpool

Do you read me?

Sir: I can assure Sue Wheat ("Nightmare of getting to do an 'e' ", 12 November) that it is not easy enough to plug your laptop into the [hotel] room's telephone

That I have risked a hernia to move a heavy bed a foot from the wall to get to the hidden BT socket to send you this letter is by no means the only nightmare one encounters in using e-mail from

hotel bedrooms. It was impossible last week in Venice, because my US jack would not fit the Italian telephone socket. It worked in Dublin a week carlier. but then I moved to the west coast where the connectors changed as

fast as the weather. I'm only able to send this because I bought an adaptor in London this week, where I learned from the supplier that there are at least 40 different types of telephone plugs worldwide, with nine varieties within the EU. It's the hardware that's hard; the software is (comparatively) easy. MICHAEL McLOUGHLION

London SW1

£20bn has been wasted. People have died. Yet the ministry to blame is still a slave to the farming business. Only when secrecy ends will consumers come first, says Andrew Pudephatt

disease CID last November, Just three weeks ago, John Lecky, the Belfast coroner considering the case. gave his verdict. He agreed with experts' views that Callaghan's death was linked to exposure to BSE - and his words confirmed the worst fears of public health experts. The BSE crisis shows no signs of abating, and some specialists fear that deaths could increase significantly in years to come given BSE's incubation period.

We might well wonder where the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Maff) has been in this period and how vigorous it has been in defending the interests of the consumer. Unfortunately for us, the

After all, this is the ministry ville lie Department of Health was working on a plan to reduce fat intake in the population, sponsored a Fish and Chip Shop of the Year competition. The problem is that the economic performance of the agricultural, fishing and food industries". Caught between a powerful food producers' lobby on one hand and the Treasury on the other, consumers have never featured as a high priority. The links between BSE and CJD have long been suspected - and long been covered up. At every stage Maff dragged its feet - refusing for two years to make BSE a notifiable disease, and only ordering the banning of offal from the food chain three

years after BSE's discovery.

Nor were the European Commission officials, who should have been a backstop, much better. The commission's top agricultural bureaucrat. Guy Legras, who heads the agriculture department, wrote to other civil servants working on BSE in 1993. He warned that "all discussions on BSE inevitably cause problems in the beef market" and suggested that "in order to keep the pubprovoke a re-opening of the debate. If you can help me, we need to be prudent and avoid the discussion getting into the scientific committees.

Even earlier than this, in 1990, a standing veterinary committee within the Brussels Commission argued that it was "necessary to minimise the BSE

Back in Britain even the Department of Health failed to make the health of the public its first priority. In the late 1980s, the Public Health Laboratory Service, funded by and accountable to the Secretary of State for Health, wanted to investigate a possible link between BSE and CJD. The Department of Health refused to allow this research to take place, since a link had not been conclusively proven. The scientist Harash Narang alleges that documents in his possession show that the Department of Health told the Public Health Laboratory Service not to investigate the new form of CJD.

If the families of those who have died from CJD do take their cases to court, it could reveal substantial disciosures of documentary proof showing the nt of the cover-ut This refusal to face the

prospect of a potential link between BSE and CJD is perhaps the only explanation for the extraordinary comment made by Dr Stephen Dorrell in March when he announced the



possibility of a link. He added: There is no contingency plan

Suspicion of a cover-up and the Government's handling of the subsequent developments have led to a collapse in public confidence. The Rowntree Reform Trust State of the Nation poll conducted in September found that three out of four people did not trust Government ministers, or their advisory committees, to tell the truth about the safety of British beef. And a Consumers' Association survey published in June found that more than 70 per cent of people thought that the Government had withheld information about the risks associated with BSE. More than twothirds of people questioned for

the association believed that the influence of food producers had resulted in a policy that was against our interests as consumers. The Government was trusted less than any other source, including the food industry, to give impartial advice.

What started as a health crisis has become a crisis of government - and it's a crisis which illustrates a wider problem: that of government policy making.

Government ministers cannot be expected to have a detailed grasp of policy. They rely on their civil servants, who in turn seek outside advice when generating policy briefs for their departments. But while business and professional groups have frequently been consulted, consumers and users of services

rarely figure. In the case of the food industry, this has meant Maff and NFU domination of post-war agricultural policy to the exclusion of consumer groups, environmentalists or wider taxpayer interests.

his closed policy network contributed to the gap between the discovery of BSE in British herds in 1986 and the admission of the link between CJD and BSE 10 years

later. And why should we expect a more critical perspective to be provided by advisory quangos such as Seac (the Spongiform Encephalopathy Committee), formed to provide much needed and supposedly

intelligent scientific advice on BSE? As Democratic Audit (the unit which monitors the workings of our democracy from its base at Essex University) has shown, most advisory quangos are secretive and unaccountable. We are told only what they choose to tell us. We have no right to know.

It is this secret, enclosed world of policy making that is ultimately to blame for the BSE crisis. Committees meeting in private and not subject to outside scrutiny develop a cosy, consensual approach to their work. Dissidents find themselves excluded from the committees, their work derided, their access to research funds blocked, and - sometimes -

Scientists who did not accept the Maff line that BSE could not jump species - including Professor Richard Lacey, Professor Bernard Tomlinson and Dr Harash Narang - were not considered to be suitable members of Seac. And as a result the growing evidence of the danger of BSE transmis numans was ignored.

But even as concern about the threat to public health grew, the twin priorities of the interest groups concerned – pro-tecting farming and limiting public spending – meant that policy makers, civil servants and even ministers were willing to manipulate evidence and mislead the public.

People's lives were put at risk to try to protect one of the most powerful lobby groups in the The consequence has been a disaster, not just for public health and the taxpayer, but for the farming industry itself. Bans on British beef have cost us more than £500 million in johs. Some economists estimate an increase to the publicsector borrowing requirement to find individuals or institutions to blame.

f we are to avoid future problems on a similar scale, we must end the secretive nature of policy making in this country. Government departments should be forced to publish lists of those they consult on policy issues - and those lists must include consumer interests. All advisory quangos should be placed on a proper statutory footing, be open in their dealings, publish their advice and give us access to their discussions. Our parliamentary process can't escape either. Select Committees in the House of Commons should be strengthened and given tougher powers to investigate the work of government departments. Our MPs need the power to scrutinise legislation and take expert evidence in public - from whoever they choose - on bills

And finally we need a free-dom of information act, to give us all the right to know. Information held by official bodies in a democracy should be the roperty of the peop belongs to us, not a political élite. If you pick up a can of steak and kidney pudding in the supermarket today you can find out how much fat it contains. You can see how many calories it provides, and even how much meat is in it. But you can't know whether or not it is safe to eat. And that just isn't good enough.

The writer is director of Charter 88, the campaign for a fair and modern democracy. The issues in this article are to be discussed at a major conserence, "BSE: a sickness of government?" to be held at Regent's College Conference Centre, Inner Circle, London, NWI 4NS on 18 November For information phone Charter 88 on 0171-278 9188. Tickets are even their sanity questioned. £20 or £10 for concessions.



The world is becoming smaller. Distances are diminishing. No matter how varied different cultures may be, we are all citizens of the blue planet. In 142 countries all around the globe, people rely on Tissot watches. For instance, on the Tissot Ballade Chrono: enticing rlegance harmoniously combined with a sporty touch. Watch Tissot and watch the world.



TISSOT

Angry young John shows Santer his claws



Miles **Kington**

brand new seasonal Christmas story!

Once upon a time, there was a little boy called John, who was going down the looked in a the window of a big shop called Euromart and saw a sign saying: "Open Today – Santer's Grotto!"

John looked in his pockets to see how much money he had got left. Gosh! It wasn't very much! In fact, it was hardly anything.

This was because he had already lent some money to his friend Stephen for some medicine. He had also lent some money to his friend Michael Howard, who needed some more construction kit for a fortress

he was building. He had also lent some money to his other friend Michael, who was No 2 in their gang, and who hadn't said what it was for. No wonder he had no money left.

Not downhearted, though, he went into Santer's Grotto and queued up behind all the other boys in the queue, most of whom seemed to be French and German and Italians, and seemed to be getting a lot of jolly nice presents from Santer.

"What did Santer give you?" he said to a French boy who was just coming out, but the French boy pretended not to understand and went on talking to his German playmates.

John felt a bit left out in the cold. It's a shame, isn't it, children, when we have no friends to talk to? Perhaps,

to make friends. Finally, it was John's turn to talk to Santer. He sat on

like John, we must try harder

his knee and looked up into his big knowing eyes. Well, John, and what do

we want for Christmas?" John was about to tell Santer what he wanted when he happened to glance out of the window. His face change from a nice face to a nasty

"Never mind about that,"

said John. "I won't accept anything from you at all' unless you behave yourself." "Good heavens," said Santer. "What a cross little child you are. Never mind we all get a bit over-excited at this time of year. Did you

remember to write a letter to Santer this year?"
"Yes, I did," said John. "And what did the letter say?" asked Santer gravely. "l'Il tell you," said John,

pulling out a copy and putting on his speciacles. "It says, 'Dear Santer. This is just to warn you that if you don't give me what me and my friends want for Christmas I'm jolly well going to make sure that nobody else gets what they want and I'm going to make things very difficult. for you and obstruct your reindeers and everything, and make sure you don't have

time to go round the world on Christmas Eve, and ..."

"Gosh, John, we are a cross little boy, aren't we?" said Santer. "I think we've got what the pop pundits would call an attitude problem, though I don't like the phrase

'Well," said John, "I don't like being told what to do by

"By me?" said Santer, stroking his big white beard and patting his tummy, which was big and round because of all the paper regulations he had stuffed in his midriff. "Have I been telling you what

to do?"
"Oh, you're always telling us what to do!" said John. Telling us to be good, and not spend too much, and not to work too hard, and make sure everyone is a goody

"Yes, but doesn't that make

sense?" said Santer. "Maybe it does," said John, "but I would like to make up my own mind about that. And another thing - I simply won't be told by you when I should do my lessons and my work and everything! So you can put that in your pipe and smoke it!"

John's voice had suddenly risen and he had started shaking his fist in Santer's face. At first Santer was taken aback, but then he happened to notice through the window of the shop several boys staring in, and he realised that John too had noticed

was trying to impress the others! "Are they your friends out there?" said Santer. They might be," grunted John. "Yes, it might be Makcolm and Michael and Ian and one or two others in

ā,

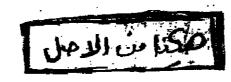
them. Alt, so that was it! He

my gang. So what?"
"Well, I just thought you might be trying to impress your friends by pretending to be rude to me," said Santer. "What if I was?" said John

rudely, "Anyway, where are my presents?" "You're not getting any presents until you write me a nicer letter and start growing

up a bit," said Santer, unexpectedly firmly, "Till then, piss off." That wasn't a very nice

thing for Santer to say, was it children! Not nice at all. On the other hand, you can't blame him either. Wouldn't you have said the same to the little brat? I know I would!



World's cheapest international phone calls

magine a world where you don't need to think of the price of a phone call, wherever the person you are calling happens to be. That freedom happens already on the Inter-net, but imagine that it will extend to ordinary voice traffic too. Friends in America? Relations in New Zealand? Pick up the phone. There is a revolution in international phone traffic coming and it is coming to Britain first.

Did you know that already more international telephone calls are made from London than from any other city on earth? In a way this is unsurprising: London is, by most measures, the world's largest international financial centre and it is the most important international bub for the world's airlines, so why not phone calls too? But it is important because it is the base from which the country is making one of those big strategic pitches for global business, a pitch to route the world's international telecommunications business through the UK.

From the end of this year any company that wants to run international calls in and out of the UK will be allowed to do so. Nearly 50 have applied and it seems most, maybe all, will

....

r his claw

get licences. Britain is the first country in the world to do this, to open its entire international phone traffic to anyone who wants to provide the service. These companies can put in their own kit, lay their fibre-optic cables, build their exchanges ("switches" in the jargon of the trade), and sell their services to whoever they want. The resulting competition will be a collapse of international call charges. Do not expect that to happen immediately, but over two or three years we will move to a position where it will cost very little more to call California than Canterbury. All the present devices that exist to get round high international charges, like Internet telephony and call-back systems, will no longer be needed. Indeed the voice telephone network will become like the Internet, a seamless global system.

We can, as a country, try to gain this advantage because for the time being physical location still matters in telecommunications. A generation ago a telephone exchange was the size. of an office block; now you can fit a decent-sized one on the back of a lorry. Maybe in another 10 years' time, when switches are the size of suitcases, the way calls are routed won't marter. But by then, according to the consultancy Analysys, we will have exploited the first mover advantage: a vicious circle where, because most traffic is routed through the UK, more and more comes here. True, the present duopoly - BT and Cable & Wireless - will find themselves squeezed, but the prize of getting in first, and therefore achieving sufficient critical mass to be massailable, is deemed to be worth it. It is the telecom equivalent of the City's Big Bang 10 years ago: we open up to everyone and thereby gain international market share, but at the expense of loss

So this is big in business terms for the UK.



Homish McRae

Britain will benefit from being the switching centre for the world's telephone services

of the least important changes
- nice but not something which will change the face of the earth. Here are five other, big-One: any telephone-based service - such as banking, data processing, electronic publishing -can be located anywhere in the world where the human capital exists to carry it out. So countries, regions or cities that have lots of clever, well-educated people will be able to exploit this resource even if their physical location has worked against them in the past. Being on the fringe will no longer matter: expect, for example, north/south

But the phenomenon of very cheap international phone calls

also matters enormously for the rest of the world. The fact

that we will be able to call fam-

ily abroad for little more than

the price of a local call is one

too much of Sarah

talking about her weight but her pres-

ence. She was certainly too much for the Royal Family. Fergie we know eats too much, likes her sex

too much, likes spending too much. In between all this con-

spicuous consumption she spins

around the world from one ill-

conceived interview to the next.

No wonder she is thought to be out of control. While it is

claimed that her excesses have

brought the monarchy into dis-

repute it strikes me that it is actu-

ally the other way around. The

Royals need Fergie to be out of

control precisely so that they can

The more extravagant and

daft she is the more self-disci-

plined they look. How many

times do we see lists of what Fer-

gie has spent on psychics or jewellery so we can gasp in amazement at her profligacy, her

lack of lustre, her sheer bloody

stupidity? Here she comes again

freckie-free and chastened,

whiter than white and willing to

skag herself off to save us the

bother. Her deranged form of self-flagellation is, of course, typically excessive. If she is to

confess her sins she will confess

to more sins than anyone else. If

she is to be criticised by others

then she will demolish herself

first. All of this must be done on

American chat shows and in

magazines. Whatever she has

discovered she has not learned

to shut up or even to have a sem-

Andrew, her ex-husband who

she now defends as not being

gay, by contrast does have a pri-

vate life. No one is interested in

how much of the Royal purse he

spends each year on fripperies.

No one asks him to justify his

to know what this man does all

day. Yet we know that in this ulti-

mate soap it is the women, the

outsiders married into this

supremely dysfunctional family,

who must flash their souls at us

Diana and Fergie do not even

have to resort to kiss-and-tell.

The saga of the Royals is played

out bizarrely through these

women's very flesh. Fergie,

Duchess of Pork, came to rep-

resent the excesses of this arcane

system of rule. All talk was of a

trimmer, slim-line monarchy,

free of the parasitic minor Roy-

als. When the tide turned against

Fergie towards this "lean cui-

lege, we also started worrying about Fergie's weight. Up and

down she went, always struggling

version of heredity privi-

from time to time.

blance of a private life.

remain in control.

you are, not where you are. Two: expect small companies to prosper at the expense of large. True, there are enormous forces for agglomeration in the telecom industry itself, witness the planned merger of BT and MCI, but for users of the service, very cheap calls help the small. The lower the cost of an international phone call, the lower

differences in the UK to narrow,

with wealth determined by who

the entry barrier into exporting any phone-based service - be it advice, entertainment, information, shopping or any other interactive gimmick that entrepreneurs of the future can dream up. Enter the niche global player.

Three: expect a boom in international freephone numbers. In America close to half the voice calls are now to free-phone numbers as businesses use this to sell and distribute their products seamlessly across the nation. The same thing is going to happen to commerce internationally. A business will simply have one number for customers to ring from anywhere in the world. It will be free to the customers and very cheap to the business. Result: a fur-ther globalising of business. Four: the English language will gain further

ground, as a result of the previous point. Ring a Swedish company and if you get the voice mail rather than the person the message will be in English as well as Swedish. The more business takes place over the international phone lines, the most the common language of business will dominate. Of course English is an open stan-dard – anyone can use it – but this should be some advantage to Angiophone countries.

Finally, expect this particular bit of deregulation to be seen, in 20 years' time, as the most important single economic decision this Government has made. We are gaining a central role in creating the high-tech infrastructure for the next century. People rightly criticise UK infra-structure. But the world's new infrastructure is not roads and airports, certainly not railways. It is telecommunications. In a world where manufacturing (and increasingly service) technology crosses national boundaries in a matter of weeks, achieving a comparative advantage in international telecommunications is the most important thing any government can do.

Fergie may be stupid - but she's not alone

by Suzanne Moore



Here is a family that makes marriage so miserable that the Duchess of York and Diana would rather be Royal outcasts

to control herself. The very idea that she can now represent Weight Watchers is heart-breaking. If anything, being a bit overweight is far less of a health risk than the yo-yo dieting that Fer-

gie has been through. Diana, meanwhile, played the patron saint of denial to Fergie's surplus sister. Diana, unlike Fergie, could have no food, no sex, no fun. No potatoes whatsoever. We worried about her weight too. She was thinner than ever. She suffered in silence and when her desires got out of control, she crammed herself with food that she would throw up again. She too knew how to punish herself. This cycle of binge and purge underwrites both these women's sad lives. Fergie is now trying to purge herself in public but she can never undo all that bingeing. Yet while these two women were in their various states of hysteria, crying themselves to

sleep at night, where was the protective arm of the Firm? Where were those who could guide these silly young women into maturity? Fergie has

incarceration in Buckingham Palace while Andrew was doing the Navy lark. She saw him not more than 42 nights a year. When she and Andrew asked if they could live in Portland at the married officers' quarters they were refused. The Queen and Prince Philip told them they could not be together for reasons of security. There is no reason to believe that the Duchess is lying here. For all of her faults, she is known to be honest. Her not so much because she and Andrew did not love each other but because of the stress she was put under rings true and although the woman is still as clearly mixed-up as her metaphors, one cannot but have

some sympathy towards her. Indeed the Royals should think themselves lucky, for while Fergie is doing the rounds no one is going to look at them too closely. As long as the public can be persuaded to deride and hate this woman then they can main-tain their dignified silence behind closed doors. Far from being a disgrace to them she is a convenient side-show that prevents more awkward questions being asked. It is easier to get personal about Fergie than political about the family she married

Yet every single glimpse we get of her Royal in-laws reveals them in a harsher light. These are cold, cold people whose sense of duty overrode all human feeling and clouded their relationships with their own chil-dren. Their lifestyle, which they seek to preserve at all costs - the ruined lives of two of their sons' wives appear as a minor inconvenience - appears less and less to belong to the twentieth cen-

It isn't simply that they have lost their moral authority as the most powerful family in the land because of a spot of martial troubles, rather that many aspects of their family life are deeply troubling and certainly out of step with the average family lives of their subjects. Most people will have relatives who are sepurated or divorced, most people are fairly liberal about these matters. Here, however, is a family that makes marriage so miserable that the likes of Fergic and Di would rather pay the price of being Royal outcasts

Both these women, hardly sexual revolutionaries, demanded modern marriages; that is they thought they might spend some time with their husbands. Both were denied this and half-destroyed in the process as the monarchy closed ranks around them, unable to cope

with such an everyday demand. If we are to believe that this institution can modernise and reform itself from the inside out while we sit and gawp, we are about as gullible as Fergie was when she revealed all to Madame Vasso, However, while Fergie begs forgiveness in her crazed, knockabout style, the Firm does no such thing, It merely carries on up the palace. divinely assured that it never has account of her marriage failing to apologise to any of us, ever.

The gender gap election

Bill Clinton's spin doctors claim he won re-election as President of the United States last week by turning the gender gap to his advantage. And British commentators have been wondering since if Tony Blair will be able to per form the same trick by following his lead.

No one disputes the size of the US "gender gap". Polls show that women backed Clinton over Dole by 54 to 38 per cent, while men split their vote almost evenly, 43 to 44 per cent. Many leading feminists nevertheless contend that Climton has betrayed their trust.

Clinton did pass the Violence Agains Women Act and the ban on assault weapons. He claims credit for passing the family leave act, but this legislation provided only for unpaid time off work, and his increase in the minimum wage still leaves a family of four under the poverty line. It is true that he vetoed the ban on late-term abortions and made pro-choice judicial appointments; however, access to abortion for most women remains a seri-

Clinton appointed several women and minorities to his administration, but whenever the going got tough for his women nominees and officials, he cut them loose. Hillary's role has been reduced to that of a biscuit-baking hostess and women close to the president have remarked that he Strongly prefers a traditional male workng environment.

in his 1992 campaign, Clinton promised to support gay rights. In office, however, he capitulated on gays in the military, gave no power to his Aids "czar", declared that children should only be raised by married heterosexual couples and signed a bill that

allows states to ban gay marriages. Feminists became especially discuthe welfare bill. This act reverses 60 years of welfare reform. Where the poor used to have a right to federal assistance, now they will have to rely on their states' gencrosity. New limits have been imposed; no. welfare recipient will be able to receive benefit after two years, or for more than five years during their lifetime. Meanwhile, unemployment stands at 7 million and there are 14 applicants for every job in a

Bill Clinton may have successfully wooed the women's vote, but

American feminists believe he did little to deserve it, writes **Anna Marie Smith**

fast food restaurant. The welfare bill makes no provision for job creation, job training or child care. Experts say that compared with all the other western countries, the US already does the least for the poor, and has the largest gap between the rich and the poor. Two out of three adults living in poverty are women and 44 per cent of single mothers remain below the poverty line.

The American child poverty rate is four times greater than the average for the EU countries. The new welfare provisions alone will throw a million more children into poverty by 2001. If a Republican president had endorsed the welfare repeal, feminists would have taken to the streets. Some feminists have tried to put a pos-

itive spin on the simation. Gloria Steinem of Ms Magazine, claimed that Clinton had to sign the welfare bill to win the election, and that he would undo the damage during his second term. But polling data shows that Clinton's solid lead over a Republican nominee remained virtually constant for the 13 months leading up to the election - and he vetoed two other welfare bills during that period. Some of the Democrats who were up for re-election in the House and the Senate voted against the welfare bill and then easily won their races. And welfare experts, including the moderate Democrat Senator Patrick Movnihan, have declared that Clinton will not be able to reverse the new law's elimmation of welfare rights.

If Clinton has proved to be less than reliable on women's issues, then how did the gender gap emerge? Image is almost everything in American politics. Only half the eligible voting population makes the trip to the voting booth, and only a tiny minority of the voters can name the actual policies of the two main parties.

Clinton appealed to women through his use of "caring and sharing" symbolic ges-tures. Women voters are less likely to view the budget deficit as a priority, and they are more likely than men to support education spending, affirmative action, gay rights, health-care reform and welfare pro-grammes. Clinton did not deliver his promised job creation scheme or healthcare reform, and did little to enhance the education system. But he put more police on the beat, floated a proposal for school uniforms, and spoke out against teenage smoking and violence on television.

Above all, Clinton is an extremely skillful politician. As he shifted to the right, feminists found themselves backed into a corner. Having either pledged their firm support to Climon early on, accepted a gov-ernment appointment, or won election on his coat-tails, they felt that they could not voice their opposition.

And so Marion Wright Edelman, of the Children's Defence Fund, said nothing in public when the welfare bill was passe Patricia Ireland, of the National Organisation of Women, was reduced to saying that she would vote for Clinton but would not campaign for him. The Americans who bothered to watch the Democratic Convention never saw feminist dissent; it was only allowed outside prime time, in unofficial venues. Socialist feminists, such as Zillah Eisenstein, Katha Pollitt, Barbara Ehrenreich and Frances Fox Piven, launched a full-scale critique of Clinton's policies but their voices were only heard America's minuscule alternative media.

None of Clinton's feminist critics preferred Dole. But many are saying that there was very little difference between Clinton and Dole, and that the feminist movement must reconstruct its political autonomy so that it can vigorously oppose every assault on women's rights - including Clinton's.

The writer is an assistant professor in the department of government at Cornell University in New York State.

Retro chic of an egg on wheels

British of contraptions, the perfect comic prop. In the classic automotive gag the cou-pling comes undone at just the wrong moment, sending the rider in one direction, the eggon-wheels in another, usually down a slope and into a pond.

There was probably something absurd about the motorcycle sidecar even before Herbert Wilson used one to transport his son, Harold, to the ilies the sidecar represented football terraces of Hud-

dersfield Town; there are signs that it is poised for a comeback. Leading the way are Jennifer Patterson and Clarissa Dick-

son-Wright, aka BBC-2's Two Fat Ladies, who are cooks. They putter about the countryside on a Triumph Thunderbird combo, collecting ingredients and helping out in the nation's kitchens. Jennifer and Clarissa are part of the revival begun by Wallace and Gromit, the Oscar-winning animated dog and win-

dow-cleaner duo. Eric Richards, the actor who plays The Bill's Sergeaut Cryer, regularly takes his wife and son to France in one. "There's been a resurgence of interest in anything that's seen as old and British," says Peter Rivers-Fletcher, Managing Director at Watsonian Squire, the world's oldest sidecar manufacturer. He estimates that there are now between 10,000 and 20,000 sidecars on Britain's a truck.

roads; although 70 per cent of

their output is exported, mostly

to Germany. Holland and

Japan. The sidecar had its heyday in the 1950s. During the week, the working man commuted to the factory on his motorbike (leather coat, buttons to the neck, flat cap jammed resolutely down). Come the weekend it was in theory a simple matter to hitch up the sidecar and head for the beach. For thousands of working class fam-

> freedom, but arrival cheap cars in

the early 60s. sidecars went into instant got all the disadvantages of a car and none of the

a motorcycle," says Alan Seeley of Classic Bike magazine. No wonder they went out of fashion. Tony Carter of Motorcycle News advises anyone thinking of buying a sidecar combo to try it out on private land before taking to the roads. "They steer and handle very differently," he says. "You have to steer into corners, not countersteer as you do on a solo." Even the doughty Jennifer Patterson complained of the notoriously difficult steering, when she switched to a Triumph from her 90cc moped (which she likes to call "my little fellow.") When pushed, a spokeswoman for Two Fat Ladies admitted that

James Ferguson

the pair do not actually ride the

bike and sidecar from location

to location: they transport it on



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business & city

BT asks Government to lift golden share

and Michael Harrison

BT has begun negotiations with the Government in an attempt to remove its protection against takeovers provided since privatisation 12 years ago by the socalled "golden share" in the company.

The move is aimed at per-suading US regulators to approve its proposed £13bn takeover of MCI, the American long-distance phone operator. by demonstrating that the UK market is open to competition and BT is no longer protected from takeover.

The golden share allows the Government to veto changes to BT's constitution which pre-vents anyone from owning more than 15 per cent of the shares. The provisions, which also apply to Cable & Wireless, which was privatised in 1981, were designed to prevent the companies from being bought up by un-welcome foreign predators. Since the announcement of

the MCI merger, the biggest such deal in UK corporate history, on 3 November the issue of the golden share has become a potentially serious stumbling block for the US telephones watchdog, the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC has to give the MCI link-up its approval if the deal is to go ahead. BT must prove to officials that US companies could enjoy the same competi-tive access to British telecommunications markets that BT will get in the US. AT&T the largest US phone company, has pledged to fight the deal on the grounds that BT still has a virtual monopoly of the local telephone

nate one of the FCC's biggest worries. The source said: "The golden share is certainly a cause of some concern. Unavoidably so. The idea that BT could buy all of MCI without US operators having the same opportu-nity to take over BT raises

serious worries for us." However any move to lift BT's golden share would almost certainly have to apply to Cable and Wireless as well. This could pose difficulties for Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

There are hurdles to overcome; but they are not insurmountable'

Although BT may be protected from takeover by its sheer size. C&W, valued at £13bn, would be more vulnerable. AT&T is thought to have looked at mounting a bid in the past but was deterred by the Government's special share.

The BT proposal is not thought to have been considered yet by Mr Lang or the DTI minister responsible for competition, John Taylor. But any decision would have to be approved at Secretary of State level.

The golden shares in BT and C&W have no time limit, unlike those in the regional electrici-Earlier this year Mr Lang re-

fused to lift the golden shares

Last night a senior US gov-emment source said removing the golden share would elimi-the golden share would elimi-Gen, the electricity generators, my Southern disclosed that it was interested in bidding for National Power.

Mr Lang defended his decision on the grounds that the electricity generation market was not yet sufficiently open to competition. On those grounds he would have difficulty abolishing BT's golden share since it still controls more than 90 per cent of the UK market.

The only time a golden share was lifted, allowing a hostile foreign bid to go ahead, was when Ford of the US bought Jaguar for £1.6bn in 1989.

Speaking yesterday, Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said he believed the deal with MCI would take a year to get approval. "There are hurdles to overcome, but nobody believes they are insurmountable," he

Separately BT gave the first indications that its huge increase in advertising and marketing spending was holding competitors in the cable industry at bay. Announcing its half yearly profits, the company disclosed that it had doubled marketing spending so far this year, adding around an extra £60m to its advertising bill. The "good-to-talk" campaign helped to raise call volumes by 11 per cent between June and September.

Pre-tax profits fell slightly from £1.61bn to £1.599bn in the six months to September, as a result of the near doubling of redundancy costs from £123m to £235m. Some 3,200 staff left BT over the period, many of them from middle management jobs.

Hamish McRae, page 19



Centre stage: BT's chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield (right), and finance director, Robert Brace, announce half-yearly profits

Michael Harrison and Chris Godsmark

PowerGen, the electricity generator, is to buy back a further 10 per cent of its shares, bring-ing the amount of capital hand-ed back to shareholders in the past 18 months to more than

This makes PowerGen the first company to embark on a major share repurchasing exercise since the Government outlawed the tax credits available on such buybacks and special dividends.

The buyback would cost PowerGen around £370m at current market prices and would mean PowerGen to buy back another 10% of shares

that it has repurchased almost pany would be included in the 30 per cent of its shares since scope of the levy. the Government sold its remaining holding in the company in spring last year. Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chair-

man, denied the buyback proved it had plenty of money to pay Labour's threatened windfall tax or that it made it a virtual certainty that the com-

suggested, then PowerGen did scope of the levy.
"I don't think this does show

we can afford the tax. It is a oneoff situation and really quite separate," he said.

Mr Wallis also said that if the tax were to be imposed only on utilities that were monopolies, price controlled and had been laxly regulated, as Labour has

executive, said: "We don't believe we fall into the definition of what the Labour Party is saying. We don't fall into the def509

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Richard Land

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inition of a utility."

PowerGen spent £367m buying 10 per cent of its shares in May and June after the Government blocked its £1.95bn bid for Midlands Electricity.

The buyback came as Power Gen unveiled a 4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £138m for the first half and a market share of 22 per cent.

Separately, South West Water yesterday unveiled a betterthan-expected 35 per cent increase in half-yearly pre-tax

GUS shares soar on £1bn acquisition

Great Universal Stores, the economies where use of credit mail order giant, made a sur- is growing rapidly. prise move yesterday when it agreed to pay £1bn for Experian, an American information services company. It is GUS's first significant acquisition for more than 30 years.

GUS's shares soared 57.5p to 648p on the news as the City took the deal as a sign of a new era at the slumbering retail gi-ant where Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale took over as chairman in August.

The City had been pondering the possibility of a share buy-back, a demerger of the group's Burberry division, or a deal to acquire Next, the highly successful stores group where Lord Wolfson is non-execu-Lord Wolfson admitted pub-

licly for the first time yesterday that the GUS board had discussed the possibility of a Next takcover "several times". The Experian acquisition vir-

tually wipes out GUS's £1.2bn cash pile, leaving the company with net cash of £150m. GUS is buying Experian to merge it with CCN, its own

credit rating and database business which has been the fastest growing part of the group over the last four years. Discussions on the deal started in June. "This is a unique opportunity to create a truly global business with the fullest range of information products across the globe." Lord Wolfson said. He added that it would give the en-larged business critical mass in

Statistics as of 14 November

ment. It will be able to expand more rapidly in developing

Both CCN and Experian have developed vast databases on consumers, businesses, vehicles and property. CCN holds credit details on 44 million people, 3 million businesses and 50 million vehicles. Experian's three databases - on consumers, businesses and real estate - contain information on 190 million individuals, 31 million households and 53 million

CCN is stronger in retail location services where it works on behalf of companies such as McDonald's and Boots to target the best locations for new outlets. Experian has been developing a powerful new software system, File One.

California, Experian was originally part of TWR, a US an tomative and engineering company. It was sold to a consortium of businesses in February for \$1.2bn (£721m). It recorded profits of \$109m on sales of \$540m last year though profits growth has been slow-ing. CCN was founded in 1980 and is based in Nottingham. It recorded profits of £24m on sales of £118m last year.

the US, enable it to offer a more comprehensive service to multineeded to be addressed. national clients and reduce the GUS reports its half-year cost of new product developresults in two weeks.

Cautious backing for EU's steel state aid regime tions, agreement has been

Michael Harrison

The European Union last night agreed a new state aid regime for the steel industry after a compromise deal that will allow Brussels to block subsidies that distort competition but still allow governments to fund closure programmes. The regime, which will run for

five years from next January, was given a cautious welcome

by the British Government and British steelmakers. Britain, supported by Den-

mark, Sweden and the Netherlands, had insisted that the new code be as least as tough as the existing regime for fear that countries in southern Europe would be tempted to unfairly subsidise their steel industries. The new regime will allow

steelmakers to receive aid for research and development projects, environmental protection and partial closure programmes. southern Europe, distorting the market and tampering British and partial closure programmes. The provisions agreed last night are much tougher than those originally proposed by Brussels in March, which some members states had feared would fail to tackle the problem

of overcapacity and lead to fur-

ther pricing wars. Since 1993 more than £6bn has been paid in state aid to ail-

Steel and other UK producers. Had EU ministers not agreed

on a new regime from I January, then all state aid applications would have had to have been vetted individually by the Council of Ministers.

Greg Knight, Britain's industry minister, welcomed the new code, saying: "I am pleased ing steel companies, mainly in that after some hard negotia-

steel industry. This success has avoided the undesirable prospect of a period without a code which would have encouraged further support for uncompetitive companies and would run counter to the terms

reached on tight state aid to the

not fit any of those categories.

said it did not believe it would

have to pay the tax because the

company was now exposed to

full competition for phone services. BT is also due to pay a

£2.2bn special dividend to shareholders next year. Sir Peter Bonfield, the chief

British Telecom, meanwhile.

of the common market." The British Iron and Steel Producers Association gave more cautious backing, saying

suited in rezi and efficient control of state aid would depend on the commission's determination to stamp out competitive

Al said that changes insisted on by the British government had closed the worst loopholes but said it was disappointed that more of the amendments proposed by the UK steel industry

RBS to sell life stake to Widows

Nic Cicutti

Royal Bank of Scotland said yesterday it was preparing to sell a stake of at least 20 per cent in its life assurance subsidiary to the mutually-owned insurer Scottish Widows, in a move which some analysts said could lead to a merger between both

The two companies' announcement of plans to work together follow the ending by RBS of its relationship with Scottish Equitable. Based in Orange County, Scottish Equitable, owned

City analysts welcomed the deal. Tony Shiret of BZW said it reduced GUS's dependence on the UK mail order market and would add £30m of profits next year. John Richards of NatWest Securities said that while the deal looked good", the decline of GUS's core home shopping business still

subsidiary, Royal Scottish Assurance (RSA). It is understood the bank was unhappy with Aegon's acquisitive strategy. Scottish Widows is expected to buy a similar number of shares

and £20m.

by the Dutch company Aegon,

is selling back its 20 per cent Scotland, said he hoped to oping a range of products, Widtable did.

Both the bank and the Widows yesterday declined to set a value on the stake at issue. Analysts said that RSA was valued at about £80m, which would lead to a price of between £15m

George Mathewson, chief executive at Royal bank of

himself to a review of financial

reach an agreement with Widows in a few weeks. The life assurer is likely to play a wider role with RSA than Scottish Equi-

Mr Mathewson said: "We're focused at the moment on Royal Scottish Assurance, but we do see the potential for other types of co-operation and so we're building a relationship which will give us a stability and a confidence whereby we can develop other products.".

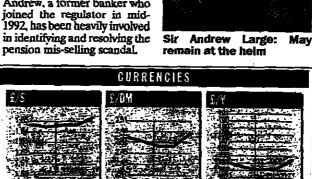
In addition to providing administrative services for Royal Scottish Assurance and develows will also play a crucial role in the expansion of Direct Line Life, the telephone-based life division of RBS.

Scottish Widows has in the past 12 months launched a highly successful pensions-selling operation by telephone. Mike Ross, group chief ex-ecutive at Scottish Widows, said: "The fact that we are able

to work together in this way shows that it is possible to make a distinction between cooperation and integration." Both companies are worth

about £4bn.

Andrew Large set for five more years as head of SIB His continued presence at services, with a beefed-up SIB SIB is seen as ensuring that taking on the role of various work begun by the regulator on smaller front-line regulators. Sir Andrew Large, chairman of Sir Andrew, it was suggested the Securities and Investments the pensions mis-selling review, by a source yesterday, might be allowed to continue in his £180,000 chairman's post for Board, is believed to be distogether other with longercussing the possibility of a fur-ther five-year term at the helm term initiatives, is completed. It is understood that the reof the City regulator when his period of office ends next year. some time before handing on to appointment of Sir Andrew would not be opposed by Labour or the Conservatives, rea younger person in a few years' It is understood that Sir Andrew, 54, may have been unof-ficially sounded out by the Since taking over at SIB, Sir Andrew, a former banker who gardless of which party wins the general election. Treasury with a view to staying Mike O'Brien, the Labour joined the regulator in midon at the SIB. An announceparty's financial services 1992, has been heavily involved ment is expected early next spokesman, has committed



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Labour and Knight to meet

Jili Treanor Banking Correspondent

Mike O'Brien, the Labour Party's financial services spokesman, will next week meet Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, to try to hammer out an agreement over the Gov-ernment's controversial plans to make changes to the Building Societies Bill.

The Labour Party's support for the proposed legislation is vital if Mrs Knight is to get her new-look Bill through Parliament. "I hope we can achieve consensus," Mr O'Brien said yesterday. "We want to see this Bill on the statute books."

The planned changes to the Bill could delay share and cash hand-outs to millions of building society members. They may even threaten the plans of some societies to convert into banks next year.

The proposal causing the main concern among the converting societies is the removal of five-year protection against being taken over once they get this right removed.

have become banks.

The newly converted banks would lose the protection immediately after buying a building society or any other type of financial institution. Societies are also concerned about confusion over the

planned legislation which may force them to revise the weighty transfer documents that must be sent to the members before they can become banks. "It's quite feasible that if legislation gets anywhere near the statute books in this shape, the board of directors would

have to look very, very carefully

as to whether to go ahead with

the flotation," John Caine, director of corporate affairs at the Alliance & Leicester building society said yesterday.

The Alliance & Leicester has already sent a 96-page transfer document to each of 3.5 million members.

The planned removal of takeover protection has pleased the Building Societies Association, which has lobbied hard to

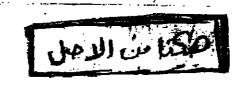
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BSkyB talks are opening a Pandora's box

At the end of the day, David, it's only fair to say, we're really over the moon on this one. And well they might be. The possibility of pay per view being introduced early for top football matches sent share prices among the quoted clubs soaring yesterday. It is not hard to see why. Just as the introduction of subscription television was great news for the Premier League, allowing football clubs to charge hither to undreamt of sums for TV rights, pay per view is going to be even better.

Some of the figures being talked of yesterday may be an exaggeration but there is no doubt that top clubs stand to get a lot more out of pay per view than the present all embracing contract with BSkyB. There is, apparently, no limit on what the com-mitted football fan is prepared to pay. A good deal for football clubs then, or some of the top ones anyway, but is it such a great one for BSkyB? That it is assumes BSkyB can both maintain its monopoly of the League and make stick the 50/50 split in revenues between club and distributor proposed. To pull that off is going to require some fancy footwork by Sky, for once the League begins to fragment into club by club deals, it will grow progressively harder to keep control of the show.

Until recently Sky held all the cards. Though others tried to snatch the Premiar League from Sky's graps, the outcome was

League from Sky's grasp, the outcome was never in any doubt, for Sky is the only broadcaster capable of reaching enough viewers format of the future has meant that the advantage is swinging away from the distributor and towards the rights holder.

Up until now Sky has prospered because t was the only game in town, controlling all the sport and movie rights and extracting onerous terms from content suppliers desperate for carriage. That will not be true when cable reaches critical mass, and when (or if) digital terrestrial television is introduced. Furthermore, as soon as that nice Mr Blair frees up BT to offer broadcast TV, there'll be another powerful competitor in the market place.BSkyB has a head's start and the best developed plans for digital TV of any company. Moreover, Sky already has a subscription TV contract with the League, a susception 1 V contract with the League, so unless regulators force the pace, it doesn't for the time being have to go down the pay per view route. By talking to the clubs about doing so Sky is opening Pandora's box. There is every possibility that pay per view will usher in a flood of new competitors and undermine Sky's present stranglehold in the process.

GUS goes on a shopping spree

- 4m potentially - to make the sums add up.
The strong likelihood that pay-per-view, rather than bog standard pay-TV, will be the was due less to City admiration for what GUS had done, and more to the fact that this slumbering old giant had done anything at all. Good old Gussie's has become so notorious for inaction that first reaction could only be one of elated astonishment. Surely not GUS, not £1bn, not in America?

This is a dusty old company that has not done a sizcable deal in 30 years, squirreling away £1bn plus in cash as a result. It has never tapped the market for new equity and never had any borrowings of any significance. It has never even had a finance director, preferring a treasury function instead. But suddenly strange things are happening. It all seems to be down to the new man at the top. While he has the same name as the last two, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, also chairman of Next, doesn't seem to belong to the same family. He has pledged a more open relationship with the City. Analysts were even granted an audience yesterday. A public relations company has been hired to spread the gospel according to GUS far and wide. And now he's gone out and spent the

group's entire cash pile in one go.

A new man in a hurry with a big balance sheet behind him is generally a pretty deadly combination. Furthermore, when a company has been "asleep" as long as GUS has there's The top brass at Great Universal Stores was apparently expecting the company's every possibility of accidents as it arises from its slumbers. And when so many UK retailers have come a cropper in the "graveyard"

US market, how can we be sure GUS will fare any better?

But for the time being the new Wolfson at the helm perhaps deserves the benefit of the doubt. Credit rating and information services are growth markets. Putting Experian together with GUS's existing CCN division will create one of the largest companies of its kind in the world. Knowledge of what everyone eats for breakfast and the like is apparently a valuable commodity among the world's leading multi-nationals.

Lord Wolfson makes a good case for this takeover and the markets are with him. For his next trick, he will need to deliver better performance in the core home shopping division, which was the cause of May's unprecedented profits warning.

DTI should surrender golden shares

When it comes to using its golden share in privatised companies, the Government's track record has proved decidedly patchy. So it should be interesting to see how lan Lang reacts to British Telecom's request that the Government should either give up or substantially alter its right of veto over what

happens in the telecoms industry.

The general policy of ministers has been to issue these things a bit like Blue Peter badges and then leave them to gather dust in the attic until some upstart Johnny for-

eigner comes along wanting to buy a piece of the British industrial landscape.

In the case of Jaguar, which was supposed to be protected from foreign takeover for five years, the golden share furned out to be made of baser metal. The Government gave up its special share as soon as the first suitor, Ford, motored into view. However, when another US predator tried to sneak up on National Power from behind Mr Lang lost no time in raising the golden share to his breast, thus sending the rotters packing.

On that occasion, the logic was that the

electricity generation market was not fully open to competition. If he applied the same criteria to BT then the golden share would have to stay in place since BT still controls

more than 90 per cent of the market.

There is, however, a big difference this time around. It is BT which is forcing the issue, not an overseas predator. BT thinks the protective arm of Mr Lang needs remov-ing from around its shoulder if it is to persuade the Americans that they should have no objection to the takeover of MCI.

The added complication is that if BT's golden share is removed, the same will have to happen to Cable and Wireless. BT's sheer size may deter all but the biggest bidder but C&W, capitalised at £10.6bn, could be much more easily digested. But if the DTI really believes in all that rhetoric about Britain being in the van of liberalisation, then it should surrender its golden shares in

50% float of Equity & Law could raise £400m

Equity & Law, the UK subsidiary of giant insurer Axa which earlier this week announced a merger with the rival French UAP group, is

Under the terms of the deal Axa. Europe's third-largest inconsidering a partial stock mar-ket flotation in a move that larger rival UAP, which was could raise up to £400m.

The partial flotation of up to 50 per cent of Equity & Law's holding is understood to be the outcome of initial discussions between the UK firm, based in High Wycombe, and its French

However, a wholesale float is thought to have been ruled out, in part because of objections by Axa's chairman, Claude Bebear. One industry source said Mr Bebear does not want to relinquish the company's stake in a UK subsidiary.

Although no firm decision has been taken, an announcement is thought likely next year The partial flotation would reflect a similar strategy adopted by both Axa and Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP).

the French firm with which it is about to merge in a £5.3bn deal. UAP, which owns Sun Life, a life and pensions company in the UK, part-floated 40 per cent of its UK arm earlier this year. raising up to £500m, although the exercise was marred by

falling stock markets. The company said at the time that its decision followed flotations around the world. aimed at giving its subsidiaries greater local involvement while subjecting it to local "share-

holder discipline".

Axa. which has large stakes in National Mutual in Australia and Equitable, in the US, has also opted for part-flotations of the companies it owns.

Earlier this week. Asa and UAP announced their merger. a decision which will create the world's second-largest in-

Life of Japan. In terms of assets under management, the combined group will be the world's largest insurer, with almost £290bn under their joint control.

Under the terms of the deal privatised in 1994. Axa and UAP said they

would capitalise on their complementary businesses and ge-ographical presence. The combined group will become the number one insurer in France and the insurers said they would rank among the leaders in the UK, Belgium, Germany and Spain. The deal will increase their presence in Italy and the Netherlands.

Analysts said yesterday the apparent contradiction of two rival companies. Sun Life and Equity & Law, both operating in the UK, meant a decision would be needed whether to integrate both companies.

Axa's subsidiary made profits of £57m in the year to December 1995, while grabbing a 2.7 per cent share of the UK life

But figures provided to analysts this week suggest that Sun Life, which is valued at about £1bn, is not only bigger than Equity & Law, but also more successful in terms of premium income from policies sold and in its curbing of management

Equity & Law's French parent is known to have considered acquisitions as a means of beefing up its operation in the UK and has complained in the past that its business interests here are too small.

Several sources in Equity & Law said yesterday that a partial flotation was an option being discussed. However, integration with Sun Life has also not been ruled out completely, potentially moving its surance company after Nippon head office to Bristol.



Off the mark: Some economists believe that Kenneth Clarke's inflation target is unachievable

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The Government has almost no chance of meeting its inflation target, economists warned yesterday, after the release of much worse-than-expected inflation figures for October, hit by sharply higher petrol prices

and housing costs. The underlying rate of inflation, which is the most closely monitored measure and excludes mortgage interest costs, rose from an annual rate of 2.9 per cent in September to 3.3 per cent last month, compared with the market forecast of 3.1 per cent. The Treasury's stated aim remains to bring the underlying rate to 2.5 per cent or below by the next election.

Inflation leap shocks City

from HSBC James Capel, de-inflation on top of the recent scribed the figures as "very disappointing indeed" and worse, on an underlying basis, than any other European Union country apart from Greece.

He added: "The Chancellor's target of 2.5 per cent now rose by more than predicted. looks virtually unachievable. I just don't see how he can hit it." Eddie George, the Government of the Bank of England, has repeatedly said he believes further increases in interest

0.25 per cent increase. Economists said the pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to raise rates before the general election would become intense.

Other inflation measures also The headline rate surged from 2.1 per cent in the year to September to 2.7 per cent in October, while the Bank of England's preferred figure, which strips out both mortgage payments and indirect taxes, jumped from 2.5 per cent to 3 per cent.

The figures provide fresh evidence that the economic recovery is having a clear impact on prices. Though manufacturers' wholesale prices remain depressed, the data suggests resumer confidence to boost their profit margins.

Motoring costs went up by 6.4 per cent compared with the pre-vious year, largely because of the Office for National Statistics, which compiles the figures, said the price of petrol had risen by around 4p a litre since July. More increases are possible as higher oil prices feed through

IN BRIEF

 Donald Anderson, a former Brent Walker executive, yesterday denied orchestrating a "massive" cover-up to hide years of false profit-taking. The former finance director of the entertainment empire's film and television arm said he had never been involved in creating bogus documents designed to conceal the truth. He has denied one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice. He told Southwark Crown Court that papers the Crown claimed pointed to his guilt were nothing of the sort, and insisted they had been part of a detailed analysis to confirm the business. ness's finances were above hoard.

• US inflation and retail sales data for October were in line with analysts' expectations, showing that the economy remained in balance, economists said. "For a change, this data had no major surprises," said Carol Stone, an economist with Nomura Securities International. The overall Consumer Price Index rose slightly to 2.6 per cent year-on-year as a result of higher food and energy

· Bank of Ireland yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits of Ir£193.1m, up from Ir£191.8m last year, in line with analysts' expectations. Maurice Keane, deputy chief executive of the bank, said its planned £600m acquisition of Bristol & West Building Society was on schedule.

• Offer, the UK electricity regulator, said Dominion Resources` £1.3bn recommended cash bid for East Midlands Electricity raised issues similar to those raised by previous takeover moves for regional electricity companies. The regulator said that, if the takeover were to proceed, a Public Electricity Supply Licence would be held by a subsidiary company rather than by a parent company. In these circumstances measures are necessary to provide proection for customers and to maintain regulatory effectiveness.

 Bayerische-Hypotheken-und-Wechsel-Bank (Hypo-Bank), the German bank, spent £60m on increasing its stake in Foreign & Colonial, one of Britain's top six institutional fund management groups, from 50 to 65 per cent.

• The Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund has granted Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, the fund management rocked by the Peter Young scandal, a stay of execution to manage more than £200m of its pension money. The pension fund's trustees decided not to immediately review the mandate, saving Morgan Grenfell from the humiliation of having to rebid for the mandate.

 Robert Fraser Asset Management suspended trading in its shares at 2.5p pending a possible reverse takeover deal. "A transaction is being considered which may lead to a significant change in the company, including changes to the board, the name and the capital structure of the company," the company said.

• UK steel production in October increased by 5.5 per cent over the previous month, the British Iron and Steel Producers Association said. Weekly production in October reached an average 374,300 tonnes, compared with 354,800 tonnes in September.

Crestco resists City calls to suspend operations

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Cresteo, the company operating the stock market's new settlement system, is resisting rapidly growing pressure in the City to suspend its commissioning programme while software problems are sorted out.

Some board members favour calling a complete halt to the transfer of companies' share registers to the new Crest settlement system for weeks or months, because of alarm about

Cresteo admitted yesterday a delay of a month or two beyond the April date scheduled for full operation was likely to be an option discussed at a meeting of the board on 25 November, Another possibility could be further delays in transferring FTSE 100 companies to Crest.

companies plan to bundle "pay-

perview" movies with cheap tele-

Crest sources also suggested that the Securities and Futures was no crisis. "only inevitable teething problems with a very Authority could limit the amount of business done by some firms that have had difficulty coping with the new system, because of the financial risk of settlement delays.

However, Jain Saville, chief executive, insisted he would resist any delays to the present overall timetable of full operation by April, and he said there

Mr Saville said there had

teething problems with a very

complex system".

timetable,"

been a significant and noticeable improvement in the much criticised performance of the settlement system over the last 10 days. He added: "We hope to demonstrate to the board that Crest is stable enough to push ahead with the transition

If City critics of Crest win the day at the board meeting and force a suspension, it will be a severe embarrassment for the Bank of England, which steered the Crest project through to fruition after the Stock Exchange's Taurus settlement system was abandoned. The Stock Exchange is keeping open the option of continuing for longer with the old Talisman settlement

system, just in case.

Mr Saville said the board's decision would be a difficult one, adding that the company would have to talk "to the SiB, the SFA and the Stock Exchange about whether the industry ... is ready for the continued pace of transition".

He admitted however that a problem with a piece of software called Circles was Crestco's fault, but said it affected only 2 to 3 per cent of settlements.

Digital bidders scramble for pay-TV football

41,600-capacity stadium being

built on the outskirts of the City.

More funds will be made avail-

buy players and secure the

team's position in the Pre-

miership. Sunderland current-

Bob Murray, chairman and

the co-founder of the Spring

Ram kitchens and bathrooms

business, said a flotation was the

ly lie fifth from bottom.

pay loans of £6m taken out to way forward. "We feel it is

build Sunderland's new £15m. right for our business. Sky has

Mathew Horsman and Patrick Tooher

Efforts by leading Premier League dubs to push ahead with pay-per-view broadcasts of top football have energised British broadasters, many of which have now advanced their own pay-per-view plans, according to

At least two bidders for digital terrestrial television licences, currently on offer from the Independent Television Commission, plan to focus on sport, including pay-per-view events, as the main driver of their new services. They are expected to talk to Premier League clubs in coming months about securing

pay-per-view rights to matches. But BSkyB, which currently holds the exclusive live rights to games as negotiated collectively by the Premier League, is expected to light hard to extend its contract to include pay-perview. Big clubs, including New- £45m. castle and Manchester United. are believed to be committed to generating maximum returns

from their matches, and have been resisting suggestions from the Sky camp that revenues from pay-per-view be split equally between the rights holder and the broadcaster.

ticular, is known to be pushing for the early introduction of payper-view. A leading institutional shareholder in the club said: "Manchester United has the least need of the collective bar-

Sunderland yesterday became

the latest football club to shoot

for glory in the City as well as

on the pitch when it announced

plans to seek a stock market list-

ing later this year. The float will

raise £10m-£12m of new funds

and value the club at £40m-

The funds will be used to re-

gaining process, as they are the riggest name in the game." Manchester United, in par-

Meanwhile, the cable industry, under the leadership of Telewest. the second-largest operator, is in the early stages of planning a pay-per-view movie service aimed at giving cable an advan-tage over satellite in the digital age. It is believed that Cable & Wireless Communications, the nation's largest operator, is also

phony, as a key marketing tool. The moves are linked to growing expectations that payperview will be the fastest growing industry in the media by the turn of the decade. According to a study by Salomon Brothers, the merchant bank, pay-per-view in Europe could

generate £3bn a year by 2000) and £9bn annually by 2005. Sunderland FC plans flotation

changed everything and with the

possibility of pay per view, the

opportunities could be even able to manager Peter Reid to greater." Peter Reid will be one of beneficiaries of the flotation. It emerged last week that he had paid £300,000 for a significant stake in the club. After the float Mr Reid's 5 per cent stake will

be worth f2m-f2.5m. The shares are expected to start trading next month. Tottenham AGM, page 26

News of the accelerated payper-view plans sent the shares of Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspurs climbing. Manchester United closed at 5325p, up 26.5p, while Totten-ham was ahead 14.5p at 545p. BSkyB saw a brief rise in carling trading but settled back to close at 519.5, down 1.5p on the day. Media analysts said yesterday

that regulatory pressures on BSkyB, the dominant pay-TV broadcaster, as well as the likelihood of increased competition would combine to create opportunities for new entrants to the pay-per-view market. Michael Green's Carlton

Communications, among other bidders, is expected to apply for a digital terrestrial television licence. In league with Mirror Group, owners of 46 per cent of The Independent, Carlton bid £650m for the last Premier League contract, in competition with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB. Even BT, the telecoms giant, is expected to enter the pay-perview market, which it sees as a key future source of revenue.



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Funds not longer on ice for

Lloyd's to be given new look as a business

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

The Lloyd's insurance market is to overhaul its own central organisation to give it a more husiness-like shape, Ron Chandler, the chief executive, an-

nounced yesterday.

Weeks after the completion of a £3.2bn rescue plan, Mr Sandler said the restructuring would split Lloyd's central services department, with turnover of £180m a year, into five new business units, each of which would have its own managing director

and managing board.

Mr Sandler said: "They will be run as businesses with as much bottom-line discipline as can be engineered."

The restructuring comes after a detailed consultation with members and is a response to widespread criticism in the market of the way Lloyd's is managed internally.

Rather than a direct result of the rescue plan, it appears to be a case of catching up on reforms that were put to one side as the market struggled to survive after losing £8bn in a few years.

Firms told Lloyd's that they wanted greater transparency of activities, including costs and charges, more accountability and responsiveness and wider choice of where they buy their services. They will be charged for what they use, rather than flat

As part of the plan, Lloyd's intends to open up some services to outside competition, so firms in the market can choose whether to buy from Lloyd's or from independent companies. At the same time, Lloyd's wants its new business units to seek work outside the market, from the rest of the insurance industry in the City. Mr Sandler said: "If a unit is not proving responsive to the needs of the market the demands for its services will atrophy."



Shaping up: David Rowland will be freed to focus on longer-term issues by the creation of new business units

from Lloyd's plans for cost re-ductions but Mr Sandler acknowledged that more jobs are to go among Lloyd's staff and contract workforce of 2,400.

He said: "Inevitably, in a business in which people are an important part of the costs I anticipate that there will be job

members' services, which includes financial housekeeping for the membership, and insur- David Rowland, to focus on ance services, which embrace the strategic and longer-term issues.

The restructuring is separate policy-signing office and the rom Lloyd's plans for cost re-claims office.

The others will be facilities management, ; business development; and North America, which will promote the market and liaise with regulators in the US and Canada.

The units will each be responsible to a user board which will include representatives from the market. Mr Sandler said the new structure would allow the board of the market, chaired by

City wary of the changing face of BT

When Sir Peter Bonfield arrived at BT's headquarters earlier this year as the corporation's new chief executive, he immediately began a campaign to fight bureaucracy and remove the last traces of civil service culture. Ten months later much has changed at BT Centre and much has happened to BT, with the £13bn takeover of MCI to

name but one. But Sir Peter has been unable to lift BT's share price. The MCI deal provided two convincing reasons why the underlying value of BT shares should have risen from around 350p to 400p. The first is that the company will pay a 35p-a-share special dividend next September, which should in theory give a short-term lift to the price. Secondly, the company also pledged to pay total dividends of 19.85p for this year, a rise of 6.1 per cent on last year. Another boost should have come from the more gen-erous price formula agreed with the in-dustry regulator, Oftel, which from next August excludes almost all business calls from price controls. It means just

20 per cent of BT's call revenues will be subject to price regulation, compared with 60 per cent today. Yet despite all this, the shares have been disappointing, briefly surging to 385p after the announcement, only to fall back towards 360p in the days that followed. There are two reasons for this, one strategic, the other technical. Firstly, worries over regulation are be-

ing replaced by new fears over BT's in-ternational expansion. If the MCI deal goes through in a year, it will transform the company's balance sheet, adding £3.5bn of debt, and transform BT from a safe utility into a growthorientated telecoms group. Nobody, apart from management, is sure it can handle the transition.

The second concern perplexing City analysts is that after the special dividend has been paid out, the annual dividend payout will be rebased, in BT's words, by about 10 per cent. This means that the annual dividend for 1997-8, the year after the merger, will start from a 10 per cent lower base, though a likely growth rate of 6 to 7 per cent means the net reduction could be a more modest 3 per cent.

However, yesterday's second-quarter results gave investors food for thought. BT is clearly starting to suc-cessfully fight back against cable companies, with growth of 11 per cent in inland call volumes between the first and second quarters. Tirmover also rose more strongly than last year, up by 4.9 per cent to £3.73bn between June and September. So the picture of a declining utility searching overseas for excitement may have been overblown. Expect static profits for the year to

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN rising to £207m next and £235m in 1998, when the forward pie falls to a

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

British Telecom : at a glance

Market value: £23,50n, share price 369,5p

Share price

pence

the end of March of £3.1bn. A prospective yield of 6.7 per cent, with the shares up 9p at 369.5p, should underpin them. But growth from here may be

Ladbroke bounces back

What a difference a year makes. Exactly 12 months ago, Ladbroke, the hotels and gaming group, issued a profits warning blaming difficult trading in its betting and gaming division on the start of the National Lottery and the introduction of instant-win scratchcards. The news sent the shares to a 10-year low of 123p. Since then they have outperformed the market by 43 per cent, even after yesterday's 3p fall to 195.5p.

The turnaround has been helped by a fall-off in scratchcard sales, a one percentage point cut in betting duty to 9 per cent, the installation of slot machines in betting shops and the introduction of gambling on the Irish Lottery. Ladbroke has also made the strategically significant decision to

Trading record

Pre-tax profits (Ebn)

Dividends per share (pence)

Sales by business

Latest 6 months, £bn

SUDDAY --

unify the Hilton brand and allow it to be marketed centrally on a world-wide basis. Once the deal with Hilton Hotel Corporation, which owns the Hilton name in the US, is finalised, HHC will hold 5 per cent of Ladbroke's shares.

Yesterday's third-quarter trading update provided little in the way of new detail on the alliance's progress, which is hardly surprising as the deal has yet to be formally ratified. Moreover, its benefits are likely to take several years to show through.
Indeed, apart from news that Lad-

broke had received approval for a gaming licence from the state of Nevada, the only new line from the statement was confirmation that jockey Frankie Dettori's historic seven wins at Ascot in September had cost the betting division £8m. That left profits at Britain's biggest bookie slightly lower than in the corresponding period.

Ladbroke, along with the rest of the

racing industry, is countering the prospect of the introduction early next year of a mid-week National Lottery draw by lobbying for a 1.5 per cent cut in the betting duty in the Budget. BZW has pencilled in pre-exceptional profits for this year of £156m,

.— half year —

7.05 **7.37**

1995

market rating of 13.

That looks about right given the buoyant state of the world hotels market, the potential benefits of the Hilton deal and continued recovery in the fortunes of the betting industry.

Bull markets boost Perpetual

Martyn Arbib, chairman of Perpetual, is a very wealthy man. Shares in his fund management group have grown over 10 times since 1992 and as owner of over half of them, he has been the chief beneficiary.

It is a remarkable performance for a company which spent the first five years of its existence struggling to stay above its 180p float price.

The question is whether it can continue. The signals from vesterday's results for the year to September pointed in different directions. On the positive side, the 46 per cent rise in pretax profits to £37.2m was another storming result for a company which made much less than a tenth of that in the opening years of the decade. These sparkling figures came on the back of a 40 per cent increase in funds under management to £6.6bn.

But there lies the rub. Perpetual's strong track record and well-honed marketing skills pulled in another £1.1bn of funds over the past year, helping to cement its market leadership in unit trust-linked personal equity plans. The group also lifted its overall market share in the market for authorised unit trusts from 3.7 to 4.2 per cent.

Few could question such a perfor-mance, but without much effort, fund managers gain a double lift during a bull phase for the stock market, like

Rising markets tend to suck in new money and new punters, particularly the relatively unsophisticated sort who are attracted to unit trusts. Meanwhile, rising share values automatically boost funds under management, with Perpetual gaining another £800m over the latest 12 months.

Mr Arbib's gentle warning yesterday over the heights at which shares round the world are trading left his own shares at £22.25, down 102.5p. That is the main problem ahead for Perpetual and explains why profits could range between £57m and £65m this year, putting the shares on a forward price/earnings ratio of 17. Given the uncertainties, purchases should be de-

Ibstock chief set for £1/2m payoff

Boardroom payoffs totalling close to £1m were in prospect yesterday as Ibstock, Britain's riggest brick-maker, and Ricardo, the automotive design engineers, both lost their chief executives.

both lost their chief executives.

Ibstock is expected to pay out just over £500,000 following the announcement that managing dimensional content is to verified an executive in the finances and the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the announcement that the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the announcement that the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the announcement that the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the announcement that the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the finances are selected to pay out just over £500,000 following the finances followed the finances rector, is to resign after losing the confidence of the board. The news comes after a period of upheaval at Ibstock, whose £160m acquisition of Redland's brick business earlier this year propelled it to the number one position in the market.

Mr Maciellan, who took over the top job five years ago after being finance director for 10 years, is being replaced by Philip Mengel, the chief executive of lostock's Glen-Gery US subsidiary since 1990.

the financial structure, but is not the man to take the group forward at an operational level. Philip Mengel, having run the US operation, is seen as the man who could pull the team together and take the group

salary of £182,000 a year. He said yesterday that, as a result of the Redland acquisition, Ibstock now had a UK operation with great profit potential for the long term. "I am proud of these achievements on behalf of the company and am pleased now to

hand over, as chief executive, to

my colleague Philip Mengel

who, I am confident, is the right man to lead the company in the next phase of its development." Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said integrating the Redland business and Tarmac's brick assets acquired in 1995 will be the

Mr Maclellan, who will leave at the end of the year, is on a three year contract at a current factory progress" with the integration of Redland.

In a separate move, Ricardo said its baord had dismissed Christopher Ross, chief execu-tive, "with immediate effect" to replace him with Rodney Westhead, the finance director. No reasons were given for the dismissal of Mr Ross, who has been in the job four years.

However, the indications were that he would be entitled to pick up a compensation pay-ment of around £430,000. He was paid a salary of £215,000 and his contract laid down a notice period of two years.

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\$74m Biotech deal opens up Japan's market

Magnus Grimond

British Biotech has taken a big step in completing world-wide distribution for its Marimastat anti-cancer drug with the announcement of a \$74m (£44.5m) development and marketing deal with lanabe Seiyaku, Japan's eighth-biggest

pharmaceuticals group. In exchange for exclusive mar-keting rights in Japan. Tanabe will take on the Japanese development of the drug and make an initial payment of \$7m, with up to \$67m more depending on a successful launch. Biotech will also receive royalties on sales in Japan thought to be "significantly higher than 25 per cent".

Typically, Western companies doing deals in Japan are lucky to obtain royalties of 15 per cent, according to one broker. Japan is the last big market still to be cracked by Marinastat. The drug is currently in phase III trials in Europe and North America, the last hurdle

to what is hoped will be official

approval and first sales in the West in around 1999. Japan has around 2 million cancer patients, about a quarter of European and North American markets put together. But Biotech has always faced much greater obstacles in breaking into the market, given the requirement that new drugs must be tested on Japanese patients before receiving official

approval. As a result, the group has been looking for a partner to help launch the product in Japan for some time.

A company spokeswoman said: "For a company at this stage of development, it would not be a very useful use of shareholders' funds if we went about setting up a subsidiary over there when we can work with an already established company."

Trials of Marimastat in human patients are expected to start in Japan next year and, if all goes well, brokers expect it to hit the Japanese market around 2002. Tanabe was chosen partly because it was more sanguine about the launch date for Marimastat than some of its rivals, which suggested the process could take up to 14

The Osaka-based Tanabe, which dates its foundation to1678, had sales of \$2bn last year. The group's best-known product is Cardizem, a cardiovascular drug launched in 1989 which is distributed in the rest of the world by Hoechst Marion Roussel and is said to be still the world's 18th best-selling

pharmaceutical: Separately, SmithKline Beecham announced that its Hycamtin treatment for cancer of the ovaries had received official EU approval. The drug is a second line of defence for patients with metastatic cancer of the ovary after the failure of initial or subsequent therapy.

IN BRIEF

• Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers's first-half profits to 28 September 1996 slipped to £4.68m from £4.8m last time, while the interim dividend rose to 4.25p from 3.86p. Richard Storey, chairman, said the first 26 weeks of the financial year had borne out his prediction of several short-term pressures on profitability. The company spent £14.5m on new presses at Sunderland and Hartlepool, leading to "significant funding costs without any revenue benefits, the start of substantial benefits being expected next financial year", Mr Storey said.

• Paper group Scapa Group's interim profits rose to £30.2m for the six months to 30 September 1996 from £27.7m last time. Chief executive David Dunn warned the strength of sterling could hit overseas earnings, but added: "The paper industry is forecasting a gradual recovery from its recent trough."

 Siebe has won Indian government permission to establish its first manufacturing plant there, paving the way for an initial investment of £8m. The Windsor-based industrial controls maker, which has sold in India since 1933, said it plans to make industrial valves, plant safety shutdown systems and process control equipment at a new factory near Madras.

 Psion shares rose 45p to 441.5p, after the British personal computer maker said it was placing 3.5 million new ordinary shares to raise around £14m to expand business in 1997. Psion said demand for products was ahead of expectations and that current trading performance was on target. The new shares would be placed at 400p each and represent around 5 per cent of the firm's issued ordinary share capital. Dealings start on 19 November.

 Maid, a provider of on-line business information, said its third-quarter pre tax loss narrowed as sales and subscriber growth continned. Maid posted a pre-tax loss of £2.4m, down from £3.4m last time. For the first nine months of fiscal year 1996, the loss increased to £5.7m from £3m, as Maid stepped up its investments in expanding operations. The company said it had now completed its infrastructure investments and anticipated breaking into proft early next year.

• Appleby Westward Group increased pre tax profits to £450,000 for the six months to 7 September compared to £191,000 last time and maintained the interim dividend at 3.2p. Chairman Roger Harvey said the second half of the company's financial year had generally been more difficult than the first, but he was confident the outcome for the year as a whole would be satisfactory, especially when compared with the previous three years.

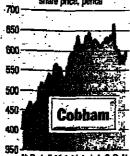
 Shares in Action Computer Supplies, a mail-order supplier of IT products to business users, rose 7 per cent to 142.5p after the company reported a sharp profit rise in its first results since its stock market debut. Action said post-tax profits of £2.058m in the year to 30 August exceeded its forecast of £1.944m made in its flotation prospectus, with turnover up 32 per cent at £134.6m.

business

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1959.7 - 1.5 SEAQ VOLUME 1.135bn shares. 34,942 bargains Gilts Index

93.81 + 0.13Share spotlight



Dow prevents shares from falling on interest rate fears Shares suffered another round

of interest rate jitters. A bright start was killed as the strong inflation figures sounded the alarm that more rate increases could be on the way. New York, however, came to

the rescue. As the Dow Jones Average hit more peaks dur-ing London trading, falls were almost eliminated and Footsie ended only 0.8 points lower at 3,926.1. A strong gilts display contributed to the revival.

The stock market enjoyed a busy session, although the index gyrations made little contribution to the trading volume. It was, in fact, tax efficient bed-and-breakfast deals which lifted turnover comfortably above 1 billion shares. The rush of late trades on

Wednesday turned out after all to be the first leg of B&Bs and other deals were put in the frame yesterday.

Great Universal Stores was the best-performing blue chip

as its £1bn takeover of a US in-formation services group was seen as the first, but decisive, step towards throwing off its reputation as a steady but duli performer. The shares, bump-

ing along near their year's low, jumped 57.5p to 648p. Sears, following its pledge to hand back cash to shareholders, was a shade easier at

It could have been wrongguessing the GUS and Sears announcements which sent retailers House of Fraser and Next higher on Wednesday.

There has for long been a suspicion GUS planned a swoop on a domestic retailer with Next the favourite target. Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale. GUS chairman, admitted that takeover talks had been held with Next, where he is also chairman.

BT, following its figures, gained 9p to 369.5p and British Gas, with Nat West Securities



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

joining UBS in supporting the shares, flared 9p to 207.5p. The weird story of a bid from Shell continues to go the rounds.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett ruffled the Far Eastern banks, HSBC and Standard Chartered by suggesting Barclays and National Westminster Bank were better bets. It lowered its HSBC forecast from £4.9bn to £4.6bn and Standard from £930m to £880m. Cobham, the aerospace group, climbed 9.5p to 594p following a lunch-time meeting with Henderson Crosthwaite and Reckitt & Colman firmed to 703p after a Panmure Gordon

presentation. British Borneo, the oil

stock market reporter of the year group, moved forward 11.5p to

620p; HSBC James Capel floated an 800p target price. Amstrad enjoyed a late flur-ry, up 8p to 167.5p, and CMG, a computer group picked by UBS as one of its "six for success", gained 24p to 845.5p.

Psion, the hand-held computer maker, jumped 45p to 441.5p following a placing at 400p by Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The placing, raising £14m, was pitched surprisingly close to the then ruling market price. BZW lifted its profit projection for next year by £2m to £24m.

To round off the computer action, Acorn Computer im-proved 11.5p to 213.5p. A tan-

expected at the pending Los Vegas IT fair; it is also thought Olivetti, the struggling Italian giant, has decided to cling on to its 31.2 per cent stake.

Full Circle, the old Atreus kitchen business now headed by Bill Rooney, former head of Spring Ram Corporation, added 2.25p to 17.75p. It was the second day running the shares, which had been bumping along at their year's low, at-tracted keen interest.

Ropner, the engineering and shipping group where Jacobs has acquired a stake and wants to bid, improved 11.5p to 118.5p. Its two market makers, Cazenove and Collins Stewart, have been stopped from trading in the shares and Winterflood Securities called in as sole market maker.

Cortecs International, the drugs group, continued to fail to respond to upbeat mes-sages, easing to 189.5p. The

talising sales announcement is shares were 418p in May. It is thought a fund, which could only invest in UK shares and did not realise Cortecs was Australian-based, is largely responsible for the recent weakness. The fund encountered difficulty unloading its stake and managed to unsettle the

market in the process. On Ofex there was again high excitement in Display IT Holdings. The shares gained a further 350p to 1,250p on talk of a US quote and the apparent success of its software package, which is seen as a powerful rival to Reuters City screens. It is thought 20 institutions are testing the compa-

ny's service. Elsewhere, Alpha Airports held at 113p as Mohamed Al Fayed confirmed his stake at 27.8 per cent and Exmoor Dual, an investment trust, jumped

Expect takeover action soon from Inn Business, the pubs chain which used to be United Breweries. It is thought to be about to swoop on one of the remaining unquoted pub businesses created in the upheaval of the Beer Orders. The group, with around 300 pubs, took over

Taking Stock

From USM to Ofex is the unusual journey of hardpressed Westminster Scaffolding. Shorn of its main assets it is hoping to fix up a deal to "restore value" for its 2,500 shareholders. The price ended at 0.25p.

the Marr chain in February.

Watch GBE International, a process engineering group. Schroder Investment Management continues to shop for shares and now has 18 per cent.Prospects are thought to be good. The shares rose 3.5p to 48p.

Greycoat investors | Lord Younger adds colour to army museum back Moorfield bid

Patrick Tooher

Rebel shareholders in Grevcoat. the property group on the receiving end of a takeover approach from Moorfield Estates, yesterday won the latest round in their long-running battle to break up the company.

Brian Myerson, manager of UK Active Fund, which controls 11 per cent of Greycoat, welcomed the decision by investors at an extraordinary meeting to adjourn for three weeks a vote on the possible liquidation of Greycoat's assets.

The [Greycoat] board will be forced to sit down and look at the Moorfield proposals," he said after the meeting. Earlier this week. Greycoat

rejected a £200m all-share takeover approach from Moorfield, a property group less than a quarter of its size.

Mr Myerson, a former Grey-

coat director, said he was de-lighted shareholders had voted of vague builet points," said a spokesman. to adjourn his original proposal to sell off the company's as-

He said Moorfield's proposals, which have so far been rejected by Greycoat as being too vague, had the backing of holders of 40 per cent of Greycoat's

These are thought to include leading institutional investors such as Schroders and

Mr Myerson said these shareholders had already seen Moorfield's 40-page document and expressed their support for it, adding that he was "supportive" of both the proposals and of the Moorfield management. Greycoat put a brave face on

the outcome. "We have yet to see any detailed proposals from Moorfield. "All we have had is one page

Grevcoat also reiterated its attack on Moorfield's offer, arguing the bidder had no experience of prime central London office properties and the offer contained no cash alternative.

Moorfield is run by Marc Gilbard and Graham Stanley, two former property analysts at US investment bank Goldman

It plans to combine with Greycoat and then split the enlarged group into two sepa-rate companies, one based at London's Embankment Place and Buckingham Palace Road, together with their debts, and the other holding the remain-der of the debts and assets of the enlarged group. Shares in Greycoat, as high

as £25 at the end of the Eighties, closed a penny higher at

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Lord Younger, chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, presented two regimental flags from City units to the National Army Museum in colours belonged to the 18thcentury equivalent of Dad's Army, raised in London to repel Napoleon Bonaparte's

troops if they invaded.

lan Robertson, director of the museum, received the flags, the Bishopsgate Ward Association Regimental Colour 1798-9 and the 6th Regiment of London (Loyal) Volunteers King's Colour of 1810. These "home guard" units were encouraged by the government and usually led by a local squire or

businessmen. Perhaps this is the next logical step in cutting defence costs and contracting out to the private sector. "Lord Younger's Volunteers" has a certain ring to it.

Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, who is due to retire as chairman of Tesco in



in charge: Lord Younger could run a voluntary unit

May, is to join the board of Vodafone as a non-executive director with effect from 1

January

The Tesco boss is gearing up to be "an active peer". He will be sworn in at the House of Lords on 17 November and he is likely to be a keen

worker for the Conservative

Lord MacLaurin was appointed to the board of Tesco in 1970 and made chairman in 1985. Now 60 years of age, though, he seems to be getting more busy rather than less.

He's keen on helping English cricket get out of the doldrums, and is chairman of the Test & County Cricket Board. He's also mad about golf, and is chairing the organising committee for the Anglo-US Ryder Cup in Valdarama, Spain. All that and a director of Nat West too. Other non-exec positions could also be in the offing, a source tells me.

Roger Oldfield, the KPMG insolvency practitioner who sold Broadgate to John Ritblat's British Land last year, was spotted in a

bohemian Italian trattoria in London yesterday having lunch with colleague Emma Strack.

Ms Strack, from KPMG's corporate recovery credit services team, has just returned from New York, having run her first marathon in the very creditable time of 4hr 14min, Mr Oldfield informs me. "She achieved this in spite of having to stop for physiotherapy at the 16mile mark on an extremely

Mr Oldfield is no mean runner himself. He did the Great North Run halfmarathon in Newcastle in September, with a time of 1hr 28min. "Liz McColgan pipped me by 18 minutes," he

The way Mr Oldfield tells it, KPMG's receivers sound like they are too busy running to wind any companies up. Mike Wheeler, head of KPMG's UK Corporate Recovery department, has

marathon. "We are a force to be reckoned with," trumpels Mr Oldfield. "This is not a profession for couch potatoes.

Chairman Philippe Bourguignon did not announce Euro Disney's final results yesterday as scheduled. They were postponed last week because French journalists are on strike. The figures will be released next Tuesday instead. Apparently people in France depend more on the press for financial information than

they do here. This excuse seems weedy. After all, last month when les hacks were also on strike, the French government pressed ahead with announcements

on cutting the budget deficit.

Just think, if all British journalists went on strike then the Budget might have to be cancelled. What a delightful thought.

John Willcock

14.2 14.5

								
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Germany	25106	65-58	194-184	15093	30-28	90-87	10000	
France	84844	197-163	592-565	5.1006	86-81	269-258	3.3794	
italy	25244	31-45	103-123	1517.6	28-35	91-101	1005.50	
Japan	185.25	91-87	278-272	111.36	48-47	149-147	73,7859	
ECU	13081	21-13	66-61	12716	13-14	44-45	05210	
Belgium	51.736	15-10	42-36	31103	7-5	20-17	206072	
Denmark	9.6423	222-177	655-556	5.7968	99-79	298-247	3.8407	
Netherlands	28155	76-68	229-215	16926	39-37	121-115	11214	
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Norway	10.528	190-90	390-270	6.3291	50-25	119-69	41934	
Spain	211.28	12-21	31-48	12702	16-20	40-48	84,582	
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New Zealand	23351	64-71	155-158	14038	54-56	97-99	09301	
Saudi Arabia	6.2385	0-0	0-0	17505	1-4	5-9	24849	
Singapore	23304	0-0	0-0	14010	24-19	70-65	09262	
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Austria	17.6674	10.6213	Oman	06406	0.3850
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China	13.8085	8.2994	Philippines	43.7912	363200
Egypt	5.6627	3.4051	Portugal	253.727	152.535
Finland	75600	45438	Catar	60550	3640
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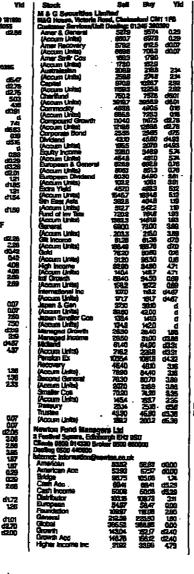
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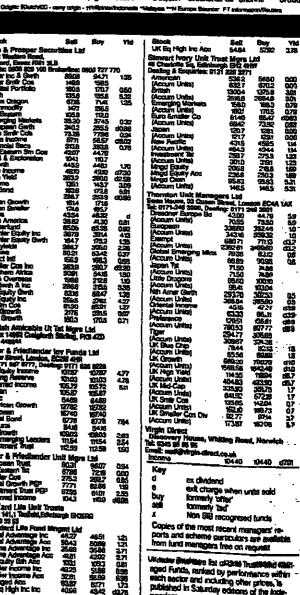
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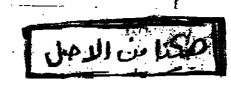
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CHELTENHAM

1.15 COOLREE (Nap) 1.50 Courbaril

HYPERION 3.00 Just Little 3.35 Factor Ten 2.25 Southampton (nb) 4.05 Ramsdens

GOING: Good to Firm.

Leh-hand, galloping onurse with sulf fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd.

Course is ar junction of A329 and A330 Sumon adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cab
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ELSADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; N A Twiston-Davisa — . U winners from 200 miners gives a success ratio of 15.1% and a loss to a 51 level stake of \$25.07; M C Pipe — 28 winners, 211 runners, 12.1%, \$75.11; N J Henderson — 12 winners, 111 runners, 10.8%, \$47.43; O Sherwood — 11 winners, 52 runners, 18.6%, \$47.43; O Sherwood — 10 wins, 191 raies, 18.6%, 450.81; A Magaire — 24 wins, 183 rides, 15.7%, \$62.00; N WHILIAMON — 20 wins, 83 rides, 24.1%, 455.00; J Oshorne — 19 wins, 147 rides, 12.6%, \$71.81.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ramadens (4.05).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS; None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Lard Dorrect (4.25) has been sem, 250 miles by J Charlon from Sociofield, Northumbertant, Oscall An Dorne (117) win 110 miles by Miss Listidall from Coton, North Yorkshre; The Last Fling (4.05) sent 161 miles by Mrs S Smith from High Edwick, West Yorkshre; World Express (4.05) sent 161 miles by Mrs S Smith from Registour. Devon; Minor Reg (3.05) & Stoney Valley (4.05) sent 105 miles by J Jenkins from Registour. Devon; Minor Reg (3.05) & Stoney Valley (4.05) sent 105 miles by J Jenkins from Registour. Devon; Minor Reg (3.05) & Stoney Valley (4.05) sent 105 miles by J Jenkins from Registon, Herfurthshre; Supermodel (1.50) sent 101 miles by Mrs N Macauley from Sproxton, Leteestershre

1.15 COLN VALLEY FISH AND GAME COMPANY AMATEUR RID-ERS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,160

ı	1	22141F	SPANOSH LIGHT (25.1) (D) (Se John Barlow) Se John Barlow 7 11 10
ı	2	137757	MAN MOCO (FR) (16) 6RF) (later Reports) C Brones 5 10 13 Mr. F. Israels (
ı	3	321P4-1	COCLREE (22) 60) (B I R Weston) P Nacholle S 10 11
ı	4	3131-62	OSCAIL AN DORAS (22) (BF) IMS L W Williams) F Murphy 7 10 10Mr R Thornton 6
ı	15	311 433	DANCING VISION (6) (b) (larges Cares) For McNeurers (do 6 10 7 Mr LT McNeures
1	6	136FP-3	CROPREDY LAD (13) (Richard Hoft P Wetber 9 10 0
J			A dealered

Afrikum: wit/St: 10st, True handicap weget: Croppedy Lad 9s; 12th BETTRIG: 6-4 Cookea, 3-1 Oscall As Dozes, 9-2 Dozeloŭ Vislan, 6-

CSCAB. AN DORAS was not making any real impression in the straight when beaten five lengths by Cooline in a similar roce at Ludow last month and even failed to take advantage of the winner's blunder at the third last. That looked an improved performance from Cooline but, with index's allowances taken into account. Oscall An Doras meets him 6th better. More importantly, the younger Oscall An Doras may have needed the run more, that being his first outing in four morths. He had finished last season in good style on this laster ground and could be a different proposition with that run under his belt. Spenish Light was a smart nowce last season for Gordon Richards when four exist, ranging from two to three miles, included a beating of the odds-on King Lucher received 12th over this tho at Hoydoot. This seems to be his opinium distance, and there is no doublying the excellent chance he has, though it may be that he will need this limit run from a new stable to put him spot on. Man Mood's history of jurging during a roce makes him too risky a proposition. Even at his best he would probably be far better off with cut in the ground and linsh challenger Dancing Vision, though relatively inexpenenced over fences in compansion, should have a better chance.

Selections OSCAIL AN DORAS MIC OSCAIL AN DORAS

1.50 SCUDAMORE CLOTHING 0800 301 301 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,680

	ACCOUNTS AND
31-	HUNTING LORE (182) (Auton Recencery) N Henderson 5 11 8
034-1	EDGEMOOR PRINCE (23) (The Racing Hares) P Hotots 5 11 4
	BLAAZENG JOE (NY Cirtord) D Wikarrs 5 11 0P Holley
5-66333	LEAP BY THE DARK (4) (Mr. D.) Marrey Mass L Scottal 7 11 0
500 F	OPERETTO (10) (Gerard Nock) Mrs Susan Nock 6 11 0
	SUPERMODEL (115) (BF) (Mass S Rudge) Mrs N Macauley 4 10 13Mr R Thorston (5)

BETTNR: 64 Hunting Lore, 7-4 Courbord, 9-2 Eigensoor Prince, ; 16-1 Blanding Joe, 25-1 Leap in The Dork. 1995: Wisley Wonder 5-11 4 T Jerks 7-2 (N Twiston-Daves) 6 ran

FORM GLIDE

Courbant showed himself to be much more than just an early-season pot-hunter with a defect of handicappers. Fredde Much and Blaze Aeray at the last meeting. Hurding nearly in the lead throughout, he was always holding the call from between the last two and HUNTING LORE will have to be every bit as good as he is cracked up to be. A lucify winner of his only point-to-point as a four-year-old in treand, Hurting Lore put in a really pleasing first run over hurdles when coming again behind the still undeaten Mandoys Maniono and subsequent winner Sparking Yasmin over two and a half miles at Ascot in Agrit, He did not even have to run up to that form when bearing Plying Gunner at Strafford (2m 6f 110yds) the following month and there is likely to be quite a bit better to come. Edgeor LLuyosi the microwing month and there is keep to be quite a bit better to come. Eagle-smoor Prince is a nice, big sort and stayed on too well for the odds-on likeasab at Evel-last month on his hurdling debut. On the face of it that was a fair performance. He will certainly stay toolay's longer timp, but the numer-up was not right that day and Supper-model, who has been running on the Plat since a rather larne second to Million Dance over two miles at Worcester back in July, has as good a chance for place money.

2.25 MITSUBISH SHOGUN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m Penalty Value £6,827 11U123- LORD DORCET (204) (D) Unin Hogg J Charlen 6 11 10

FORM GUIDE FORM GUEDE

Purping a visor on used to do the trick for SOUTHAMPTON over hundles and that might, be the case over fences, not that there was anything wrong with his Sandown win hop. Medinas Swan Song and Konvelsta King in February or his comeback run against Calsine Bay at Stratford without the headgear. He gave Calsine Bay at real finght when matching stricks with him from the thrift last and will be that much sharper as a result. This Sandown run was the only time Konvelsta King completed the course over fences last season. He reopposes on 19th better terms but there was not a great deal in his return at Wetherby a formight logit, other than that he combileted the course, and he has not made the progress Southampton has. Capitalin Kinedive was talled off last of the five finishers when Southampton won at Ascot (2m 31 10)yost in April but is far better than the kine. out. He is not that big, which is presumably why he runs here with his lower weight in prevention to the opening, see model the precess two and a main these invest days, he was never going that well with the pace Clay County set at Remption last time but with no ob-uous front-numer hore he should be able to keep handy and has a turn of four that must make him a denger. Lond Doncer was a progressive young horse over fences last term and had two good placings in addition to his four wins. He looks set for another good sea-

3.00 MURPHY'S 1N A BOTTLE HURDLE (CLASS B) £8,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds Penalty Value

	£	5,472
١	1 21303-8 04	VICTOR P 5 11 app 11 (appendix executive country (appendix appendix ap
	2 5013-25 \$4	MANNO (13) (D) (Magnum Construction Ltd) Miss L Siddall 11 3
1	3 2011-04 MI	PA-LOU-AND (1A) (D) (BF) J D Libroni 1455. H Finght 11 0
١.	4 2-43121 JU	ST LITTLE (34) (D) (Scarnus O'Flame): A O'Bren (In 10 12
		- 4 dectared -

BETTING: 4-6 Just Little, 2-1 Danjing, 9-2 Mich-Loo-And, 25-1 Sep 1995: VASA 5-11-2 / Osborne 2-7 of Egermin 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Insh challenger JUST LITTLE comes here with a very easy win at Faryhouse behind her and has a good chance of topping her three British mails. The best way to gauge her abil-dy is that she was a close third in the Galwa; Hurdle in the summer, a neck behind Space dy is that she was a dose thad in the Galway Hurdle in the Summer, a neck behind Space Trucker who was a bit unlucky against Dreams End at Wincanton on Salundar, Fourth at Wincanton was Mistinglett, only a neck penind brid-placed Danjling at Ambre in March having earlier had by that the britter of the angument in the Trumph. Danning was sold after that and has shown improved from on the Fate, with two narrow defeats in staying handicads. He is cut to make amends for ducking out early on at Newton; on Wednesday and Just Little will find rum a tough opponent to overcome. Free Handicas Hurdle runner-up Min-boraking was getting nowners unit proling up ground late on when fourth bettind El Don at Wetherby last time. He should be better suited by the stiffer test of stakes there. mica this course provides but still needs to improve to trouble the two classier horses.

3.35 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value

		£6,840
1	711 171	FACTOR TEN (34) Premer Cross Limiters Mas et Magint a 11 8
12	622-112	STORIGHAGNER (15) (Ton Double C.Y. Actor) 7 11 5
IJ	1150 ! !	THE LAST FLING (14)(0) (Abdraed Substant) Bookstock) Mr. S Smith 6 11 5
ŀ		,Richard Goest

-4 declared -8ETTING: 4-9 The Last Fing, 3-1 Factor Ten, 5-1 Startutracker, 20-1 Million Rey.

FORM GUIDE

THE LAST FUNG should celeral his unbeaten not over fences to three. Five wins from eight starts over hundles last season showed what a decent horse he was and he promises to be even better as a chaser. He made the most of a loose horse hampening the runner up to best subsequent easy winner Mr Conductor over a shorter trip at Bangor on his chasing debut and their impressed with the way he reded in a small but select field over a more adequate distance at Wetherby, His jumping could not be faulted and there is better to come Factor Ten, though technically shill a nowbe, has plenty of coherence and provides meaningful opposition. The eight-year-old has not been overstretched and bounced cack after getting it all wrong behind Big Ben Dun at kempton to win a hand-cap at Bangor. He containly wall not be a pushover. Stommtracker may have come up against a decent sort in the former point-to-pointer Handkham at Wincanton and should at least keep Milnor Key out of third Selection: THE LAST FUNG

4.05 EUROBALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5f Penal C4

ı	ŀ		(À AQUE TTOTI
ı	1		STAUNCH RIVAL (USA) (10) (D) (1 W Apin) G Thomas 9 11 10 Clare Thomas (5)
1	12	3151-55	STONEY WILLEY (12) (5% & Patres (Scotloplas) Ltd) Limburs 6 10 11
4	3	61105-ö	WORLD EXPRESS (9) (1) Dogset B P (Astron 6 10 6
1	10	7217-42	RAMSDENS (14) (C) (BF) (John Duccon N Terson Daves 4 10 6
-1			

BETTING: 5-4 Ramedees, 2-1 Starach Rival, 11-4 World Express, 7-1 Stoney Valley 1995: Girgor Jun 4 10 7 M Carlon 13 8 P Hedger & can FORM CLHOE

FORM GLIDE

As an out-of-form chaser Statunch Rivel has me easy task concoding so much weight to specialist hundlers and RAMSDENS has a food opportunity to but a moderano run at Bander behind him. Ramsdons improved when getting a longer tro last season, bearing Chasodan (gave two stone) over two and a half miles here in April, and had a foir complact behind Myttonis Choice over two mes at Chrostow. He will be happer with orday's weight behind Myttonis Choice over two mes at Chrostow. He will be happer with orday's weight behind Myttonis Choice over two mes at Chrostow. He will be happer with orday's weight behind with the estra stone and a half he shouldered at Bangtor. Stoney Valley is simugating to find his way back after winking braiety of Statisford more than 14 and mother above. Even allowing for the lact that the handscapper has dropped him, he could not be a senious fancy on the evidence of his two runs mis season. Soft, or at least gound with bently of out, has been a prerequitate for World Express winning. Flat and hunding, we run he was always strugging in the mud behind Mouse Bird at Newton Abbot nine days go. He should not be written off after just one moderate run, of course, but neither can be be recommended on ground this fast, however well he might be weighted.

Dettori inflicts an £8m profit dent

reduced to just 29 runners yes-

terday, which is simply not wor-

thy of jump racing's finest track, even allowing for the fact that

Racing **GREG WOOD**

The publication of Ladbrokes' three-month trading figures is rarely a cause for celebration among the punting fraternity. but for those on what is generaly the less profitable side of the betting window, yesterday provided a glorious exception.

The latest accounts from Britain's biggest bookmaker contain a large hole. It is about five and a half fect tall, weighs in at 8st 4lb and is valued at £8 million, and it should bring a warm glow to the heart even if you fielded against Lanfranco Dettori in every one of the seven races at Áscot's Festival meeting in September.

This £8m figure is the best indication so far of just how much money changed hands when the nation's favourite jockey went through the card at one of the season's most valuable meetings, and implies that an earlier estimate of an industry-wide loss of £30m is as close to the true figure as we are likely to get. As a result, profits at the Ladbroke group's betting division showed a slight drop compared to 1995, though recent introduction of betting on Irish Lottery numbers has proved popular with punters.

Racing turnover, however, remains depressed due to the impact of the domestic Lottery, which is disturbing news since it is only bets placed on the horses which generate the payments to the Levy which keep the entire carousel moving. Nor will cards like this after-

GOING: GOODE

SIS RACING CHANNEL

HYPERION

12.25 Endowment 12.55 Highland Park 1.30 Judicious Norman 2.05 Sparky Gayle 2.40 Lochna-

grain 3.15 Random Harvest 3.45 Trap Dancer

E Left-hand gallinging course; Am-in 210yds. Racecourse is eas-

of town on A753. Art station (service from Glasgow) Im. AD-MISSION: Club S12; Grandstand S7 (CAPs S4). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED PIEST TURE: Endowment (12.35), Grandinare (12.35), Grandinare

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: We're in The Honey (1226) & Pen-ian Court (1230) have been sent 281 miles by Miss J Basser from Wood-

12.25 GALLOWAY HILLS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added 2m

005- BILL'S PRIDE (235) P Moments 5 11 0 - 11 declared -

LOVEYDUMILLIONS N Tables 4 11 5

0 SMART M SOCKS (50) Mess Lucando V Russel 5 11 5

| 12:55|, Grinnell (visored, 12:55). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Non-

The attempt by the Cheltenham executive to take advantage of the arrival of Sunday racing by extending their first big meeting from two days into a three-day "Festival" was typi-

the going is good to firm.

cally adventurous, but the first afternoon 12 months ago was equally uncompetitive. With top-class racing throughout the

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Southampton (Cheltenham 2.25) NB: The Last Fling (Cheltenham 3.35)

country each weekend at present, a basic shortage of good horses is a problem which even they may struggle to overcome. It is particularly unfortunate that the two events which have attracted the hint of a respectable muster are the ones not being televised live, while

vantage of small fields - namely an obvious winner or two. The handicap burdle which closes the card is a perfect demonstration of the problems facing punters, in that there are excellent reasons, from a poor recent run to a complete and prolonged loss of form. to op-

even boast the traditional ad-

pose all four of the runners. Much the same is true of what is arguably the most in-

Murphy's Hurdle, in which Aidan O'Brien's small but in-

Danjing is racing for the second time in three days, which fancied for the valuable race at Newbury on Wednesday. The back on this afternoon, but while at his best he would win today's race, after such a display it is impossible to support or op-

SOUTHAMPTON (nap 2.25), whose second place behind Callisoe Bay in a good time two weeks ago gives him the edge over Lord Dorcet. The amount of work which has been put in on the gallops may be crucial in the preceding novice hurdle, in which multiple winner Coubar-il faces Hunting Lore (next best 1.50), who is unraced since the remaining contests do not last season, but here it may pay to side with the lightly raced debutant rather than an opponent whose scope for further im-

other contest which appears to boil down to two runners, and while The Last Fling has done little wrong in two races and deserves to start as favourite. Henrietta Knight's Factor Ten (3.35) showed enough at Sandown last month to suggest noon's at Cheltenham do much teresting race of the day, the he can run him very close.

SETTING: 5-4 Endowment, 2-1 Grandmare, 5-1 Loveyouts/Boos, 12-1 Fits de Crescon, 18-1 Percy Parrot, 29-1 Bouchfie, 25-1 others

12.55 MOSSBLOWN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G)

50503/5 WE'RE IN THE MONEY (488) Miss J Bower 12 10 0_

1.30 GALLOWRY HILLS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 added 2m

£2,500 added 2m 4f #56-15 LATMAN (86) (0) R Alen 9 11 10 _______ S Meirose (3) V 40006-3 TALL MEASURE (40) (0) D Saunderuss 10 11 9 __G Cabil B 11264-3 HIGHLAND PARK (19) (0) (8F) R Crags 10 11 6 ______

to tempt backers into the shops. An overnight entry of 101 was form filly Just Little will probably start favourite against Danjing, a leading juvenile hurdler for Simon Sherwood last season, but now with Martin

is not unusual for a resident of Pipe's yard but in his case owes more to his refusal to contemplate a second circuit when blinkers he wore on the Flat are

pose him with any confidence.

A far more solid bet is

novement is distinctly limited. The novice chase is yet an-

......C McCormack (5

3.35: FACTOR TEN, a strapping eight-year-old, jumped well when recording a decent performance to

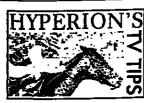


Top Irish rider Charlie Swan is in action at Cheltenham today Photograph: Sporting Life

CHELTENHAM 2.25: Lord Dorcet makes his sea-2.25: Lord Dorcet makes his sea-sonal debut but is reported to be well forward. Alistair Charlton's gelding, who won four of his sev-ea completed starts last season, makes the long journey from the North East and is the chief threat to SOUTHAMPTON. Tony Mc-

to SOUTHAMPTON. John when runner-up to Callisoe Bay two weeks ago and the favoured visor is now back on this course winner. Toby Balding's stable is in top 3.00: Danjing blotted his copy-book by running off the track at Newbury on Wednesday but makes quick reappearance here. That display of temperament could have been a one-off, but a risk remains that he will not recapture his good juvenile form, epitomised by a sev-eu-length third to Zabadi in the

Glenlivet Hurdle at Aintree. If the Martin Pipe-trained runner misbehaves again, Irish raider JUST LITTLE is the one who will sure-



to beat Ali's Alibi at Bangor las time. He is a tentative selection however, because Sue Smith, whose Yorkshire yard is in such sparkling form would not be sending The Last Fling south without a considerable degree of confidence. Storm-tracker is another who cannot be ruled out.

4.05: First-time blinkers can do th trick for the course winner RAMS-DENS here. The blinds are applied after this four-year-old dropped away tamely before being pulled up at Bangor last time. Earlier, how ever, he shaped encouragingly be-hind Mytton's Choice of Chepstow and faces three out-of-form opponents, including World Express Perhaps, though, Rod Millman's six year-old can show improvement af-ter his first run of the season nine days ago.

Osborne's **Cup luck**

Easthorpe will now be ridden by Jamie Osborne in tomorrow's Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham. Jason Titley, the eight-year-old's regular rider, was detained in hospital yesterday with a suspected bruised kidney following an accident on the home gallops. "Jason is still in hospital, he

is on a drip and still passing some blood, so I don't think he will be riding for a while." the gelding's trainer. Henrietta Knight, said. "Easthorpe is very well and Jamie Osborne will ride," she added.

Mick Fitzgerald still hopes to ride the well-backed Big Matt in the Murphy's despite hurting an arm in a fall at Newbury on Wednesday, "My arm is not too bad, a bit black looking and I feel a bit sore," Fitzgerald said. But I'll be right for Saturday."

BETTINC: 9-4 Golf Land, 5-2 Clave Mold, 4-1 Jacoby General, 7-1 Jadiciou Korasan, 10-1 Mollies, 12-1 Femilia Court, 16-1 others 2.05 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m

	643212	CASTLEROYAL (20) (D) Fergison (in) 7 11 6 L W	y
	6UZF-51	DEWLRY (21) (2) R Craps 6 11 6	è
	2/1/PO/-	BOLD BOSS (587) G Moore 7 11 0	h
ļ	5F//O/-	CROSSHOT (718) R McDonaid 9 11 0	4
i	65040-U	FINE TUNE (7) Mis S Bradburne 6 11 0 A Thorn	bo
i	043544	GRAND AS OWT (209) D McCare 6 11 0	90
,	0/3214-	JACK DOYLE (205) J J O'Neil 5 11 0	,
	3233-P0	MUSIC BLITZ (30) Mrs O Thomson 5 11 0T Re	ė
٠	4133F-0	NEWAY (7) M Barnes 6 11 0 Bu	d
٥	LIGP/OFG-	PAINT YOUR WARDN (272) N Cremberton 6 11 0.D J Moff	a
1	036203	SINGING SAND (228) P Mortests 6 11 CA Dob	ы
2	1/13254	SPARKY GRYLE (211) C Parker 6 11 0	T
3	02P102	UK HYGRENE (207) M Hammond & 11 0	ш
		BOLANEY GERL (35) (35) F Murtagh 7 10 3	
		4.4 destand	-

BETTING: 7-4 Castleroyal, 5-1 Jack Doyle, 6-1 Bold

l Sparky Gayle, 19-1 UK Hyglené, 16-1 others		
į	2.40	FIVEWAYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3m 110yds
1 2 3	01/0010- 1/2-3P1 P/10/0P-	PALACERATE (MAG (195) A Winters 7 12 0E Calleghan (5) LOCHMAGRAIN (8) Mrs M Revoley 8 11 2 (Sec)P Minon DIG DEEPER (354) (0) R Allen 9 10 7
5		PHARARE (7) (D) (BF) R Woodhouse 6 10 0

6	3	115	JOAN MACKAY NOVICE HANDICAP CHAS (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f
	Ľ		(CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f
Ξ	1	00150-P	MINISTER JOHNNY (14) / J O'Ned 7 11 10
-	2	5/426-2	RANDOM HARVEST (13) Mrs M Reveley 7 11 3P New
	3	350-123	PALLE CHARM (6) Mrs S Bractourie 6 11 3
•	4	104	MONNATE FORTE (585) J Adam 6 11 U Raits
h	5	412334	REVE DE VALSE (19) R Johnson 9 10 9
y	6	641634	2515 HEL LAD (384)) Barcky 9 10 7 A Dobb
8	7	400-104	SHOW YOUR HAND (7) (DR) (BF) L lungo 8 10 4
n	8	0555-P4	DEAMOND SPRITE (22) R Smyth (b) 9 10 3
P			Gerard Mertin (
f	9	000-333	KELTURLA (7) Mrs S Smitt 6 10 0 R Wilkinson (
d	10	00-054P	SEE YOU ALWAYS (19) M Barnes 6 10 0
e			- 10 declared -
	W	илип меж	N: 10st. True handicap weights: Nilhilla 9st Olb. See You Alwa
8	851	11m.	
y			Random Harvest, 4-1 Blue Charm, 5-1 Jymjam Johnny, 6
y 8	Sh	ow Your Ha	and, 8-1 Reve de Valse, Diamond Sprite, 16-1 others
8			• •

B088, 7-1 Devery, 8-	3.45	(CLASS E) £3,000 added
DI E /OI 100 O		ALMBROOK (405) A Whilens 5 10 12.
DLE (CLASS C)		BOLD FOUNTAIN (363) & Moore 5 10
5		CRASHBALLOO (174) P Cheestrough !
12 0 E Calleghan (5)	4 <u>0</u> 2-6	ETHICAL MOTE (13) Mrs S Smith 5 10
2 (5ex)		
A Dabbin	5 /1PPUU/-	JAGGENSTOWN (568) 1 / O'Neil 9 10 1
10 0	6 04	PHAR ECHO (203) L (ungo 5 1ú 12
00	7 AGPO/PO-	POCARE GAOTHE (360) W Storey 6 3

BETTING: 2-1 Random Harvest, 4-1 Blue Charm, 5-1 Jymjam Johnny, 6-1 Skow Your Hand, 8-1 Reve de Valse, Diamond Sprite, 18-1 others		
3.45 LAGG NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds		
1 6 ALMEROOK (405) A Whilens 5 10 12		
2 13/3- BOLD FOUNTAIN (363) 6 Moore 5 10 12		
3 2- CRASHBALLOO (174) P Cheestrough 5 10 12 R Supply		
4 09-6 ETHICAL MOTE (13) Mrs S Smith 5 10 12		
5 /IPPUU/ INGGENSTOWN (SIGN) I / O'Neil 9 10 12		
6 04 PHAR ECHO (203) L (ungo 5 10 12		
7 AGPOPO- POCARRE GAOTTHE (360) W Storey 6 10 12 M Molones		
8 SMART IN SATIN Med Lucado V Russell 6 10 12. A Thornton		
9 0264-62 TRAP DANCER (13) P Mortesti 8 10 12		
10 Q-0 WILLIE WANNABE (30) Mrs D Thurson 6 10 12		
11 0P00F-0 MEADOWRECK (7) W Young 7 10 7		
12 2-425 PROFIT AND LOSS (13) F Murphy 5 10 7		
- 12 declared -		

LINGFIELD

12.05 Dancing Lawyer 12.35 Another Batchworth 1.05 Featherstone Lane 1.40 Rebuke 2.15 Deeply Vale 2.50 Broughtons Error 3.25 Lavender Della 3.55 Stalled

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 5f. Inn – oatsade; pest – utside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best in sprints.

Equator's surface, left-hand, sharp undatating course.

Course is south-case of town on BJUSE, Lingfield railway station is street by London, Virtural adjoints course. ADMISSION:
Members 513. Family Enricosure 59. CAR PARK: Club 53; re-

SIS RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Battle Ground (1.40), Ekaterial Parital (visoted, 1.40), Agwa (2.15), Rock The Barney (visoted,

3.75) WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Ramsey Hope (12.45) has been sent 270 miles by 1 Fairburst from Middleham, North Vortsdare, Double Expressor (2.50) sent 770 miles by Michaston from Middleham, North Vortsdare, Gi La (figh) (105) & Standown (2.15) sent 258 miles ig 3 Berry from Cockerbana Lancashire.

12.05 SHOWFORCE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £2,950 added 7f (AW)		
1	000004	1ENNOX 1EWS (59) A Jorns 4 9 6
2		ARCUS (79) \(V.c. 2 9 3
3	360000	DANICING LAWYER (41) (CD) B Maetan 5 9 Z., M Tebbutt 9
4	123400	MOR'S DEED (39) (DI C Was 3 9 1 5 Senders 3
5	063000	SLP JRG (8) (0) R Harron 391 R Hughes 12
6	060204	BOLD STREET (13) (CD) A Bate, 690 D Whight 6
7	010060	SOAKRIG (16) (CD) P Burgoyre 6 9 0
8	031100	APOLLO RED (18) (CO) 4 Mocre 7 5 10 Candy Morris 4
9	000000	MYSTIC LEGERO (22)) Sheetan 4 8 10 Drowne 2

BETTING: 3-1 Sip Jig. 4-1 Lemma: Lawis, 6-1 Bodd Street, 8-1 Descring Lawyer, James Do. Apolio Red. 10-1 Arcus, 12-1 others.

12.35 CONFERENCE STAGING HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) 53,700 added 5f (AW)

19 0-05490 TACHYCARDIA (51) (0) P 0'Sulvan 4 7 12 _____ J Quien 7

1.05 CONFERENCE STAGING HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,700 added 5f (AW)		
1 030540 SHARP PEARL H33 (08 J White 3 10 0		
2 60P550 MDAS (43) (C) L Mortage Hall 3 9 10 Dame 07Hell 6		
3 064300 CHENCAST (7) (CD) JL Eye 3 9 7		
4 050603 FEATHERSTONE LANE (8) (D) Mass I, Sidean 5 9 7		
5 300154 CHEEKY CHAPPY (8) (CD) D Crateman 5 9 5		
5 300:30 Cristal Cristal by Joseph Condition 5.9 Summer 4 B		
6 420443 MAPER STAR (8) (D) Mrs N Macauley 3 9 1		
7 505301 MISTER RAIDER (B) (CD) E Wheeler 4-8 13 (Fe)		
B 600560 MIDNIGHT COOKE (8) 8 Pages 3 8 S		
9 102500 El LA HIGH (SI (CD) J Born 388		
10 6005 LAWSBANA (11) Mas J Case 3 8 5		
SETTING: 5-2 Mister Raider, 4-1 Footberstone Lane, 9-2 Cheeky Chap- py, 5-1 Sharp Pearl, Napier Star. 10-1 Mideight Cookle, 12-1 others		

1.40 CUTTING EDGE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2YO 7f (AW)

Ground, 7-1 Eksterial Paritisi, 12-1 Santolia Twinkle, 14-1 others		
2.15 SHOWFORCE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £2,950 added 7f (AW)		
1 (0602) SHARP 'N SMART (13) (CD) 8 Smart 4 9 6 M Tebbett 11		
2 024300 XENOPHON OF CUMAXA (87) (D) M Fetherson-Godey 3 9 5		
3 0.40400 BAROSSA WALLEY (462) P Bufur 5 9 2		
6 344101 DEEPLY VALE (25) (D) G I More 5.8 11 5 Williament 5 7 100060 ASWA (18) (CD) R USubson 7.8 10 9 Bigs 10 8		
8 E53000 RAGAZZO (4) (CD) / Warningt 6 8 10		
10 0000-00 SAINT AMBGO (29) (CD) R Whitnes 4 8 4 F Norton 8 V 11 ALICIA LEA A Moore 4 8 3		
12 052000 INTO DEST (11) Jame Poston 3 8 1		
BETTING: 3-1 Standown, 9-2 Xenophon of Curanza, 5-1 Deeply Vale, 6-1		

BETTENG: 3-1 Standown, 9-2 Kenophon of Comma, 5-1 Deeply Vale, 6-1 Sharp 'n Smart, 8-1 Barossa Volley. Jovie King, 10-1 Agun, 14-1 others		
2	2.50	MALAYA GATWICK NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2YO 1m (AW)
1		KAISER KACHE (7) N Mokulifie 9 7R Houthes 8
Ž		DAVIS ROCK (40) W Liby 9 1Dane O'Nell 5
3	000	CHEWAL ROC (18) R Harron 8 11R Perbara 7
4	504001	BROUGHTONS ERROR (20) V/ Musson S 10
5	5-00	NOBLE HERO CSE J Sheeton 8 7
6	02:12	DOUBLE ESPRESSO (10) (D) (BF) 14 Johnston 8 6
		M Roberts 3
7	420136	IRISH FICTION (23) D COLATUR 8 6
В		MOTCOMES CILIE (13) (BF) N Caladren 8 5
		D Indian CD 4

3.25 SOUTHRIVER TOOLS & FIXINGS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F)

		£3,450 added 3YO 1m 2f (AW)	
1	0000	D J CAT (11) W N. 90 Date 07Noti	
2	Q.	GO 700 MOOR (387) G Braxery 9 0	
3		MAD ALEX IN Haynes 90 Sanders	
a	90	STRETCHING (4) A Saley 9 0	
5		BELLAPHENTO (151) / Ranger 8 9	
6		DUTCH DYANE G Errort 89	
7		NEEN COMPANSON I J Naustrum 89	
Ř	60-2020	LAVENDER DELLA (22) M Fetherston-Godley 8 9	
_		D Holland	
9	0-0	PERSUASION (22) Lord Humanation 8 9	
•	•••	- 9 declared -	
BETTENS: 11-10 Languager Delia, 3-1 Persuasion, 7-1 Reen Companion			
3-1 Stretching, 12-1 Mad Alex, Dutch Dyane, 14-1 others			
	THE PARTY.	S' TS,T WEST WEST' NORTH NJAMA' TANT CRIMITY	

3.55 SCENA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 4f (AW)

-8 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Stalled, 5-2 Hoodyriots, 4-1 Flow Back, 6-1 Rock The Ber-ney, 13-2 Taniyar, 10-1 Dolliver, 14-1 Our Moin Man, 20-1 others Rodney Brack, chief executive of the Levy Board, is to consider arguments put forward by delegates of the National Association for the Protection of Punters for financial support for the establishment of a national consumer body to protect

punters' interests, it was reported last night.

TOWCESTER

TOWCESTER

1.20: 1. WRLLY STAR (Richard Guest) 4-1: 2. Tamandu II-4; 3. Cross Talk 6-5 fav. 10 rats. 6, 1/2. (Mrs. S. Smith, Bingley). Tote: £5.10; £1.80, £1.60, £1.60, £1.0. DF: £16.60. CSF: £1.78.5, Ton: £6.70. NR: Tomal, No 7 Tomal was withdrawn not under orders. No market formed, Rule 4 does not apply.

1.80: 1. BALLYEA BOY (A Magure) 3-1; 2. Andromory Chief 5-1; 3. Celtin Shew 7-4 fav. 5 rats. Ns. 4, (D Nicholson, Temple Gulung). Tote: £3.50; £1.80. £3.00. DF: £12.60. CSF: £16.46. After a sewands inquay, the placings remained unalized.

2.20: 1. RANGTING: (R Durwoody) 13-8 fav. 2. Nr. Poppleton 5-1; 3. Witney-de-Bergeras 5-2. 7 rats. 6, 3/4. (C Marn, Lambourn). Tote: £2.70; £2.00, £3.10. DF: £6.60. CSF: £11.01. Tincast: £19.62. NR: Red Ught.

2.50: 1. SECOND CALL (R Durwoody) 15-8 (av. 2. Ney Yo Moyade 8-1; 3. Thinking Twice 15-8 (f sw. 6 rats. 14, 13. (Capt I forster, Downton). Tote: £3.00: £1.30. [23.10. DF: £7.50. CSF: £15.83.

3.20: 1. POTTERYS GALE (A Magure) 4-6 fav. 2. Martousion 9-1; 3. Ludy High Sheriff 16-1 ±1.rats. 5, 1/4. (D Nicholson, Temple Guang). Tote: £1.60: £1.10, £2.40, £4.80. DF: £7.50. CSF: £9.55. Troy: £50.90. NR: Royal Ruler.

3.50: 1. EUPHONIC (I Osbotne) 11-4 fav.

Royal Ruler.
3.50: 1. EUPHONIC (J Osbornel 11-4 lav.
2. Silver Standard 3-1; 3. Fortunes Course
3-1.9 ran. 2, 2, () Balding, Kingsterel. Tota:
63.60: 2.00, £1.60, £1.30, £7.65. A0, CSF.
£12.52. Tricast: £26.00, Tim: £8.10, Jackpot: £4.765.10, Quadoot: £7.50. Placecont: £7.63.0.

Place 6: £18.60, Place 5: £15.71.

TAUNTON

1.00: 1. NOR RUN (Air C Vigors) 4-1; 2. Severa Gale 17-2; 3. Tightar 15-8 (as. 11 ran. 6, 14, IN Henderson, Lamboumi, Totar 5:590: £1:90, £2:20, £1:10, DF: £18:40, CSF: £34:68. Treast £76:06. Tro. £17:40, 1.30: 1. CHICKASIDOT IR, fortreont 5:2. Ashmeda Rambier 41: 3. Lord Nitrogen 7-1. 5 ran. 6-4 fav Norde Valley (felt. 23, 15. IG Gehvards, Mincheadt, Totar £3:00: £1:10, £3:50. DF: £9:20, CSF: £11:36. 2.00: 1. LITTLE MOOLIGAN (R Johnson) 6-1; 2. Biarred Imagie 8-1; 3. Mintawall 4-1. 10 ran. 11-4 fav Indra lungested Inderl. 11:... Gebrucht, Mincheadt, Totar £7:50; TAUNTON

6-1; 2. Bitarred Image 8-1; 3. Mixtawaii 4-1. 10 ran. 11-4 fav indra jungested inder. 2. 11... (G Edwards, Minchead), Totar £1,50; £1,60; £2,60; £2,00. OF; £17-50; CSF; £47-37. Tincast £194-65. Trop £46-70. 2.30; 1. ROSENCRANT2 (N Wilcarrand eens tat: 2. Portscattho 10-1; 3. Mingle Wilcard 66-1. 13 ran. 11, 37. fibres Venetio Wilcards, Hereford, Totar £2,40; £1.80, £2.20, £1.14.0, DF; £7-90. CSF; £1.165. Trop £110-50. NRF Nordsance Punce. 3.00: 1. HONEY MOUNT (N Wilcardson) 9-4 fay; 2. Copper Coll 9-2; 3. Dragoments 6-1. 9 ran. 7, 6. (N Walker, Kingston Liste). Totar £3.0; £1.50, £1.20, £1.70, DF; £5.70, CSF; £12.11. Trop £11.00; £1.70, £3.70, £3.0; 1.50, £1.50, £1.70, £3.20, £3.20, £3.



RACING RESULTS £4.50; £1.10, £2.90, £1.60, DF; £7.00, CSF; £9.12. This: £4.90, Following a stewards' in-quir, No 7 Scoring Pedignee, who finished first, was disputified and placed last. Quadpot: £10.30, Placepot: £23.00. 1.40: 1. HAYES WAY (S Sanders) 10-1: 1.40: 1. HAYES WAY (S Sanders) 10-1; 2. Premiter 6-4 fav; 3. Localisas 16-1. 9 ratu. 2%, 2%, (1 Mils). Tote: £6.10: £2.20, £1.10, £6.70. DF: £11.10. CSF: £23.74, Tno: £123.70. 2.10: 1. STEAMROLLER STANLY (G 2.10: 1. STEAMROLLER STANLY (G Carter) 14-1; 2. Polar Champ 8-1, 3. More Than You Know 20-1 9 san. Event Sav Opera Butl. 3%, 2%. (C Gyarn. Totar £24,70; £6.00, £3.60; £8.00. De: £59,£0. CSF: £109,36. To: £198.20. 2.40: 1. RUST LOUI (T Sprake) 7-2 jt fay. 2. Sheat Valley 16-1; 3. Masterstroke 11-1, 9 ran. 7-2 jt fay Last Chance, 5, 2%. (W Turner). Totae £3.60; £1.50, £2.40, £2,30. DF: £23.90. CSF: £45.19. Tro: £103.50. 3.10: 1. MADRINA DF Fessey) 5-2 fax £3. Piace 8: £56.58. Piace 5: £45.29.

LINGFIELD

12.10: 1. MIRACLE KID (W Ryar) 11-4

It far, 2. Protocol 11-4 It far, 3. Chief Predator 33-1. 9 ran. Nr. 29-. 0 Gosden, Totac £3.70: £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £5.30. £7: £2.30. CSF. £8.99. Tho: £13.60. £6.30. £7: £2.30. CSF. £8.99. Tho: £13.60. Staum 6-1; 3. Philister 5-1 co fav. 8 ran. 5-1 co fav Errant. 5. nr. (C Brittan). Totac £5.50. £2.20. £1.90. £2.10. DF: £11.70. CSF: £41.73. Treast £183.94. After a stewards impulsy the placings remained unaltered.

1.10: 1. SMITHEREENS (S Copp. 11-2 It far, 2. Statistician 10-1: 3. Shontaine 16-1. 14 ran. 11-2 It far Speedy Classic (1. 17. 4. Philaphyn. Totac £6.40. £1.60. £5.40. £6.20. DF: £67.50. CSF. £53.19. Treast £777.64. Tho: £153.20. Place 6: £56.59. Place 5: £45.29.

DF: £23.90. CSF: £45.19. Ino: £103.50.
3.10: 1. MADRINA (P Fessey) 5-2 fav; 2. School Boy 5-1; 3. Rawl 5-1. 13 ran. 5, 4 U Beny Tota: £3.40; £1.50, £1.50, £3.60. DF: £9.10. CSF: £15.7. Ino: £15.90.
3.40: 1. ARZANI (R Mullen: 6-5 fav; 2. Paronomasia 50-1; 3. Alfrayza 5-1. 8 ran. 1/1. 7, 10 Cosgrove. Tota: £1.80; £1.00, £12.60. £1.40. DF: £15.00. CSF: £38.74. Incast: £208.59. Quadpot: £68.50. Place 5: £186.10.

What's FREE, worth hundreds of £££'s a year and will make other punters green with envy?



FIND OUT TOMORROW IN The Sporting Life

Boro move to allay fears over foreign affairs

Simon Turnbull on the Teesside club

who are trying to sort out problems

with their Brazilian contingent



from Brazil was paraded down at the Riverside Stadium yesterday - aot. however, the one the media, and

indeed the Middlesbrough management, had gathered to see. The frizzy-haired employee Bryan Robson calls "Emma" was visiting a sick aunt. It may have seemed very Jane Austen,

In the absence, without leave, of the midfielder from Rio. Juninho was wheeled in front of

but the ailing relative happened

to be somewhere in the north

to prove that Middlesbrough still had at least one boy from Brazil. Whether Emerson will return to join him remains doubtful. even though Robson left ajar a

door to possible conciliation. "I have not put a time on Emerson's return," the Middlesbrough manager said, con-tradicting threats of legal action if the 24-year-old failed to report for training yesterday.

His auntie has been taken ill and he's gone to see her. That's the latest I know. There are bound to be some problems in a club which has 50 players. But you don't expect players to go the cameras and tape recorders against contracts. especially

when they are just a few months into them."

Emerson, who has played just 14 games since his £4m summer move from Porto, intends to make his premature separation from Middlesbrough a permanent one, citing his wife's failure to take to the Teesside air.

His agent, Da Silva Vega, was in Italy yesterday, negotiating on his behalf with Parma. Carlo Ancelotti, coach of the Serie A club, is keen to invest the £4.5m Parma received from the sale of Gianfranco Zola to Chelsea in the uncapped Brazilian.

Middlesbrough chairman, has warned he may sue if Emerson fails to return to Teesside. He may also seek a ban by Fifa, the The situation is also being game's world governing body. closely monitored by Benfica, "Emerson has signed a four

Emerson played at Porto last season. Middlesbrough, how-

ever, insist he is not for sale.

Indeed, Steve Gibson, the

Roma and Barcelona, under year contract with us," Gibson whose coach, Bobby Robson, said. "His future is here and he

won't be allowed to leave." Given the circumstances. Juninho's choice of words yesterday were perhaps unfortunate. "I have two years more,"

he said. "I don't want out." They did little to dispel the belief that being contracted to Middlesbrough, for the foreign legionnaires at least, is some

kind of internment. It was to counter such a growing perception, and to deny in public escape plans attributed to him in an Italian newspaper, that Juninho spoke in public yes-

With Branco gone, Emerson likely to stay away, Fabrizio Ravanelli reportedly unhappy, and Nick Barmby departed because of a disparity in his pay packet, Middlesbrough's gamble of hiring highly paid foreigners seems to be backfiring.

They stand 15th in the Premiership table, with one point from their last six matches nine places below their station

when Juninho started the influx in November last year. Jamie Pollock, the local lad pushed out by Emerson, was ironically in Bolton yesterday, looking to se-cure a quick release from his Spanish club. Osasuna.

Robin Nichols started following The Boro, as they are known on Teesside, in the days of Fog-gon, Sprageon and Hickton. Ed-itor of the fanzine Fly Me To The Moon, he insisted yesterday that revolt is far from the minds of Middlesbrough supporters.
"They are just bewildered," he

said. "But a lot of fans think people are taking the mickey. There was always resentment that these

big name foreign players were coming to Middlesbrough. "Nobody knows what to

Di

layer:

fter

think at the moment. We just don't know what's going on. There are so many remours fly-

ing about, and they're all bad.

Robson took the extraordinary step yesterday of publicly refuting one of them: his resignation. His message was delivered on Middlesbrough's

Livewire telephone line. which also trumpeted the launch of a book charting the club's kest

From Doom to Boom," its

Powling's paupers can cash in



Sudbury are ready to surprise Brighton in tomorrow's first round. Rupert Metcalf reports

plucking by hopeful FA Cup iantkillers, it is Brighton and Hove Albion. Bottom of the Nationwide League and beset by worries over where - or even if - they will be playing home games next season, it is difficult to imagine how their morale can sink any lower.

Sink it will, though, if they lose away to the Suffolk side. Sudbury Town, in tomorrow's first-round tie. While the humiliation for Brighton would not be as extreme as it was in 1973, when as an old Third Division team under Brian Clough's managership they were beaten 4-0 at home by Walton and Hersham, it would still be hard to

Much to the chagrin of their long-suffering supporters, the Sussex seaside club are already something of a laughing stock for football's chattering classes, and defeat tomorrow would make that embarrassing situation far, far worse.

It might be expected that Sudbury's manager is only too happy to hear about his opponents' ongoing misfortunes, in a greater chance of victory. Richie Powling is, however, full of sympathy for Jimmy Case, his opposite number, and everyone else who cares about beleaguered Brighton.

'No one likes to see a club

fever a team seemed ripe for in trouble, especially one with plucking by hopeful FA Cup such a Cup tradition, but I'm sure they'll turn things round," Powling said.

"Their supporters might not be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but when a club hits rock bottom something normally happens to pick them up again, and I'm sure that will be the case with them."

However, Powling of course hopes that Brighton's fortunes do not take a turn for the better after until this weekend. He is realistic about his side's chances of success, though. "If we're honest, eight times out of 10 they're going to beat us," he said, "but the Cup is about dreams and banana skins and we just hope that this might be one of them.'

"For the neutral fan, this is one of the ties of the round," Powling added. "They're not having a good season, with all their troubles, and they could be there for the taking. We've obviously got a chance." Powling knows something of

the highs and lows of football. As a tough little wing-half and an England youth internationfor Arsenal in 1973. Over the and Michael Cheetham have all course of five seasons at Highbury, however, he only managed to appear in 55 League games, before a serious knee injury ended his playing career.



Powling's squad has several players will Football League experience. Tony English (who is also assistant manager), Nicky Smith, Steve Ball, Clive Stafford played for Colchester. The tall Powling moved on to Barnet, kick Ian Brown has turned out Southern (now Dr Martens)

Although this is their debut pearance in the first round of the FA Cup, Sudbury have played at Wembley more recently than Brighton. They went there for the FA Vase final (which they lost to Tamworth in replay at Peterborough) in centre-forward Christian Mc- 1989 - six years after Brighton's Clean has been with Northamp- FA Cup final. In 1990 Sudbury ton, Swansea and Bristol were promoted from the East-Rovers, while his striking side- ern Counties League to the

volved in the transfer market."

Although their Priory Stadium is picturesque, it is inadequate for anything loftier than their present level. Sudbury sion for a new stadium, which they hope to start building within the next two years - so a continuation of this season's Cup run will provide much-needed revenue as well as muchappreciated prestige.



League clubs end strike threat

The threat of a strike by Nationwide League players was ended vesterday when League clubs agreed a new funding deal with the Professional Footballers'Association.

Under the terms of the new deal, the PFA will receive £750,000 per year for five years, with a further £600,000 a year allocated by the clubs to spend on mutually agreed

projects.
The first payment, replacing the £560,000 the union received last season, will go on benevulent packages, insurances and player education. The second sum will be allocated following discussions between the clubs and the PFA, although the precise process has yet to be determineo.

The new package was agreed following a 30-minute discussion by chairmen and representatives of all 72 clubs in London. The Football League secretary, Andy Williamson, said: "Obviously we are pleased that this saga has now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. It means that supporters and our commercial partners can be assured that there will be no disruption to the League's

The PFA had balloted its members on strike action after the clubs scrapped the long-running tradition of paying the union a 10 per cent levy from television screening rights. This season the League began a five-year, £125m TV deal with BSkyB, and the PFA chief ex-ecutive, Gordon Taylor, initial-ly demanded that the payment be restored.

However, after the players vote - understood to be overwhelmingly in favour of industrial action - Taylor pulled back from the brink in order to begin further negotiations. Those talks clearly bore fruit, although Williamson stressed that there had been "compromise" on both sides.

The Football League president, Gordon McKeag, was yesterday served notice to quit after clubs overwhellningly backed a call for a radical over-

haul of the League's structure.
The Ipswich chairman David Sheepshanks, Ron Noades of Crystal Palace, Jonathan Hayward of Wolves and Oldham's Ian Stott proposed the change which will see the seven-man, board replaced by a new nineman body. While McKeag will keep his

Sugar convinced the AGM title until he steps down next summer, he will immediately relinquish his position as board chairman if the move is agreed ing of clubs next month.

motives at Tottenham but the only thing I've got out of the club since 1991 is unadulteratat an emergency general meet-Scramble for pay TV, page 21

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Other sports

SNOOKER UK Chumpionship (Presign). -SWIMMING: British Good Prin (Leosetter). TEHRIS: Quartiers Desct Nationals (Tellard).

TODAY'S NUMBER

159

The number of goals lat Wright has now scored for Arsenal, following his two in the Coca-Cola Cup egainst Stoke City on Wednesday Wright needs another 20 to break Cliff Bastin's record and become the all-time leading scorer at Highbury.

Doctors at his three previous clubs - Parma, Leeds and FC with the former Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, and has fleet-footed winger has left IFK Gothenburg for Milan. The Italian Serie A club have The Tottenham Hotspur pic Leeds United's unsettled Swe-Sugar added the industry has spur. We want the best", he said. "not yet seen the worst of it", Sugar and the team manager. chairman, Alan Sugar, warned Zürich - had all passed him fit, been unable to patch things up shareholders at the company's adding that the ruling is a "li-Gerry Francis, said the search with the new manager. George Brolin claimed. paid an undisclosed fee for annual general meeting yescence for [football] agents to for quality players is continuing. "I met Sampdoria in Lyon Graham, who tried to prevent Blomqvist, who will sign a fourterday of the "most devastating print money". Agents are now but the competition is tough. The Swedish international telling players not to sign long-term contracts, and this is un-Sugar said it remains his per-

dish striker Tomas Brolin fears that his career may be over following the collapse of his loan move to Samodoria.

believes it is unlikely that any club will employ him, after he failed a medical as he was on the verge of signing for the Italian Serie A side until the end of the season, with a view to a permanent £2m move.

"It's going to be tough. Word gets around," said Brolin, whose chances of moving to Italy were scuppered by a metal staple in his foot. The 26-year-old was aston-

ished by the doctor's decision that he would have to have the staple and screws - inserted after he broke his foot in November 1994 - removed before he could be passed fit.

and negotiated. The only thing remaining was a doctor's certificate and they sent me to a doctor for an examination," the Leeds forward explained. "It was a purely routine thing

and the thing I was least concerned about. And then the doctor said the staple had to be taken out before he would recommend me for Sampdoria. He thought the staple would give me problems in training and

"I was in shock when I left the doctor's. I can hardly believe it would end up like this." Brolin has had a stormy 18

Brolin continuing his loan with

Brolin fears for his future

Leeds threatened legal action if he did not return to Elland Road. Brolin then threatened to retire and, ironically, he may be forced into that if he decides not to have the staple removed.
"I don't have much hope

that Sampdoria will change their minds," he added, saying it would take six to eight weeks after an operation before he could play.

Reports linking both Tot-tenham Hotspur and Leicester City with another Swedish international forward, Jesper Blomqvist, have been quashed months since leaving Parma for Leeds for £4.5m. He fell out by the announcement that the

and-a-half year contract with Milan. They will pay around £2m for the 22-year-old striker, who will arrive in Milan early next month. The Norwich City midfield-

Ian Crook was yesterday fined £250 by the Football As-sociation after admitting signing for two clubs at the same time. In June Crook was released by Norwich and agreed to join Ipswich - but within two days he returned to Norwich after Mike Walker had been reappointed manager. He signed registration forms with Norwich before the contract he had agreed with Ipswich was deimplications" of last year's European Union Bosman ruling on the transfer system. Sugar insisted that the Bos-

man ruling, which allows players to move within Europe on free transfers at the end of their contracts, is a tremendous threat to the future of the game. He said: "We've faced all sorts of disasters in every season since I've been at the club but nothing as damaging as the effects of the Bosman ruling. "It is the greatest danger facing this club and the rest of

football. Even clever people such as Sir John Hall at Newcastle don't understand the ramifications of Bosman."

lowing his team's 3-2 win

based on a strong youth policy, Sugar claimed. He said it is up to English chibs to stand up to the agents - to "hard nose them" and "be tough". Tottenham investors' anger against the club's management was directed at the club's failure to make any major signings for the current season, which is

now one third over.
One shareholder drew loud

applause when he said that some members of the club's playing staff are "not good enough for Tottenham Hot-

Sugar sticks to his guns

dermining Tottenham's plan to

build a strong squad of depth

sonal challenge to make Tottenham successful. I will probably never be a popular character here, no chairman ever is, but you could have had Robert Maxwell.

manner."

ed stick.

sonal goal to win the Premier-

ship but "these things cannot be

achieved in a flash-in-the-pan

that the club was in safe bands.

He said: "People question my

"The profits belong to the

club and not me. I see it as a per-

A tale of a Romanian referee and a Portuguese hotelier cana stadium when directors Vietnam

Portugal

Abordeen and their former manager, Alex Ferguson, have unwittingly been linked this week with a bribery scandal which has been causing a stir in the Portuguese papers.

Portuguese police have questioned a businessman over his allegations that he sought to bribe a Romanian referee on behalf of FC Porto 12 years ago, prior to a European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final against the Dons when the Manchester United manager was in charge at Pittodrie.

Fernando Barata, a hotel owner and the former chairman of another Portuguese club, Farense, has claimed that he had been asked by Porto to

speak to the referee before the first lcg. He said he had been asked to fix a 3-0 victory for Porto, but has not said how much money was offered. Porto won both the home and away legs 1-0.

Porto have fiercely denied the allegations but Uefa, European football's governing body, has sought an explana-tion from the Portuguese Football Association. The referee, Ioan Igna, also claimed ignorance of the bribery claims.

"I'm totally surprised about these allegations. Igna said in Bucharest vesterday. "I don't know this person who is making accusations. I've never spoken to him." He said Porto had provided all three Romanian officials for the match with air tickets, accommodation and food.

"They gave me a watch, a lit-tle flag and a badge for presents. Nothing else

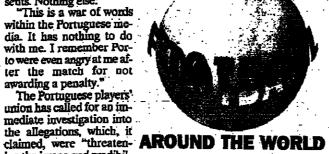
This is a war of words within the Portuguese media. It has nothing to do with me. I remember Porto were even angry at me after the match for not awarding a penalty."

The Portuguese players' union has called for an immediate investigation into ing the image and credibility of Portuguese football.

Brazilian championship. A

weekend in the

There is, it scems never a peaceful



goalkeeper beaten up by fans Sunday underwent surgery on Tuesday. Ricardo Pinto, of the league leaders Atletico Paranaense, needed a three-hour operation after a small clot de-

veloped on his brain.

away to the bottom club, Fluminense, in Rio de Jancirc on Sunday. He suffered concussion and needed striches in a head wound after dozens of Flummense fans scaled the fences around the pitch after the final whistle. Some attacked Pinto, who lashed out before being knocked to the ground. He was carned to the dressing room by Atletico officials

A Fluminense official said following a league match last - Pinto was to blame for the incident. "He provoked the fans. There is not a fence in the world that could contain an enraged multitude."

The previous weekend, there was chaos at the Mara-

from both clubs interrupted a league game between Vasco da Gama and Botafogo to protest at refereeing decisions. Play was delayed for more than 20 minutes when Eurico Miranda, a Vasco director and

a member of the Brazilian Congress, ran on to the pitch to complain about the goal which gave Botafogo a 1-0 lead. Vas-co scored twice following the interruption but, after their second goal, the president of Botafogo, Carlos Alberto Montenegro, followed Miranda's example and rushed on to remonstrate with the referee.

Miranda also threatened police who tried to usher him been demoted a rank in the naoff the pitch - by warning tional constabulary. them that he enjoyed parliamentary immunity.

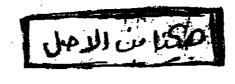
A Vietnamese international, Chu Van Mui, has been

banned for life for leading an attack on the referee at the country's cup final last month. Mui's team assaulted the official after they had been beaten 3-1 by a provincial side, Dong Thap, in the televised cup final. The referee was kicked and punched and chased round the stadium. Mui was judged to have led the charge by his team - Ho Chi Minh City Police.

The ban was not the end of Mui's problems - he has also

Rupert Metcalf





Davies in line for Test recall

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWELT

The wizard is back - well, almost. Jonathan Davies was named yesterday in a 26-strong Telsh squad for the one-off Test with Australia in just over a fortnight's time, and if the legendary utside-half survives the next section debate and wins a place the starting line-up, he will complete the most remarkable omeback of modern times.

At 34, Davies is finally beninning to rediscover some zest ir his country's national game, uch to the surprise of those to watched him disappear

the unprecedented razzmatazz of his return from rugby league.

Older, wiser and, if truth be told, a fair bit slower than when he last pulled on the only red shirt that matters in Wales - a union shirt - six years ago, he has nevertheless turned in some high-quality performances for Cardiff over the last three months and has been duly rewarded by the national coach, Kevin Bowring.

Davies joins fellow outsidehalves Neil Jenkins and Arwel Thomas in the squad, and if he squeezes past them and faces the Wallabies, he will add to the 27 caps he so memorably won between 1985 and 1988. He can

Players 'in danger' after withdrawal

Rugby's internecine power bat-tle has bordered on the farcical for the past nine months, but even the cynics stopped laugh-ing yesterday as fears for playcts safety grew in the aftermath of the latest breakdown in talks between the leading profes-sional clubs and their govern-ing body, writes Chris Hewett.

Once Eprue, the clubs' umrella organisation, took the redictable step of formally athdrawing the top 100 players the country from the forthoming programme of divisional natches - a direct result of the illapse of talks with Rugby othall Union representatives Northampton on Wednesday

ne potential repercussions of ding under-strength sides uinst tourists as powerful as neensland, the Junior Springks and, in particular, Arntina took centre stage. Tony Jorden and Phil Keith-

oach, leading lights in the ondon division, were put in the osition of having to replace a eam full of top-level performers with a hotch-potch collection of relative unknowns from Rosslyn Park and Havant, two Third Division sides, for next Wednesday's match with the Purnas. "It's shambolic," Jorden said. "My worry is that players from that level could be exposed to danger in the scrums. This is causing incredible confusion among the players, who are the most important element."

Richard Hill, the Gloucester coach, had already withdrawn pree of his leading players om the South-West side who ak team." he explained.

e Heineken Cup scems to

al wing. Rory Underwood

started in just one match -

nst the Borders - and ap-

ed briefly as a replace-

against the French side

during Leicester's unbeat-

morrow, Underwood, who

Lind, must once more kick

els on the replacements'

sa for the quarter-final vis-

Harlequins. The 33-year-

AF pilot received a few

Ming words vesterday from

a said to him that I've been

same situation with Eng-

ptain, Dean Richards.

ored 49 tries in 85 caps for is raring to go."

arch through Europe.

ALLEWELLYN

Apart from the safety concerns, the Epruc boycott makes a mockery of the national manement's selection plans for the England A team, who play all three touring sides in the space

of four days next month. At the

moment the squad is drawn en-

tirely from Epruc clubs. Eprue was still waiting for a response to their request to ad-dress the entire RFU committee a week today. Peter Wheeler, the chief executive of Leicester and one of the club's regular negotiators, fanned the flames by raising the renewed possibility of a breakaway by the senior sides.

We'll be writing to each individual member of the RFU asking for the chance to talk to the full committee before this thing goes further than anyone would wish it to," said the former England and British Lions hooker. "We do not want to leave the union but unless we do we may not get fair treatment. I'm getting bored with saying this is the week we get an agreement'. I've been saying

that for the last nine months. "If everyone signed under duress it would be a recipe for disaster. Let's get the problem sorted so we can spend the next five years building up the game. Serious damage is being caused at the moment, from which we could take an age to recover."
The England pack leader Ja-

son Leonard yesterday added his voice for a common-sense approach from both sides. The Harlequins captain, who wins his 50th full cap against Italy tovulnerable playing in such out as soon as possible. A solution has to be found.

Underwood still marking time

feels." Richards said. "What you

have to do is get your head down

Underwood's place has been

player Richards describes as "an"

outstanding talent who is get-

ting better with each game he plays". But the Tigers captain added: "In my eyes, Rory Un-

derwood is the world's No 1 tin-

isher. Obviously Rory is a little

upset but at the same time he

Bob Dwyer, Leicester's di-

rector of coaching, said: "I be-

lieve, and so do the other-

selectors, that his form has not

been there. On the other hand,

his last came. I thought, showed

a fair bit of improvement, and

his application to training has

been 100 per cent. In fact since

and carry on working hard."

le bypassed England's most—taken by Leon Lloyd, 19. a

I can relate to how he he has been dropped he has re-

Great Britain - ample testament to his all-round brilliance as a rugby footballer.

"It's been difficult coming back into union but I'm delighted to have this opportunity." he said on hearing the news of his call-up. "There are three outside-halves in the squad but I've got a chance of playing, which is more than I'd have were I still outside the squad.

"It's nice to be recognised at the ripe old age of 34. I've had a run of games in the No 10 jersey for Cardiff, I feel quite comfortable with my rugby at the moment and I'm sure my experience will be of helo."

Bowring, who has been imressed with Davies' control and clear-headed decision-making in recent weeks, has also found room for three other league refugees: the Swansea centre Scott Gibbs and two forwards, the tight-head prop David Young of Cardiff and the flanker Richard Webster of Bath. There is also a member of the Quinnell family in the squad, although not the one everyone expected to see. Scott Quinnell, who has been

embroiled in an embarrassing public wrangle over international payments since he joined Richmond from rugby league gi-ants Wigan in the summer, stays on the outside looking in while his club-mate and brother Craig, who has been the more eve-catching of the two over the early months of the campaign. wins a place as one of three second rows.

Despite reports that Scott has settled his differences with the Welsh Rugby Union treasury, Terry Cobner, the director of rughy, said vesterday that he had been unable to finalise matters with the player's agent, Mike

Four players who took part in Wales' last home international match, the narrow defeat by France in September, are missing from the latest selection. The Llanelli centre Nigel Davies, who captained the side that night, is still struggling with injury, as is club colleague Mike Voyle, the second-row forward. The other absentees are the Neath booker Barry Williams, who scored a try inside the first minute of his Test debut, and the Pontypridd

flanker Martyn Williams. Ieuan Evans, the former national captain who was also injured in the early stages of the confrontation with France, has recovered from a lengthy lay-off nt the South-West side who morrow week, said: "I think I and is one of only two full-time the South Africans at Excan speak for all the players wings named by Bowring, Howon the same day. "They are when I say we want this sorted ever, both Wayne Procter and Gareth Thomas have played top-level rugby in the position.

ally done extra work. One of

I like because of his job."

Il Carling, selected at cen-England, has been re-

as the Harlequins'

re half for tomorrow's

Mike Catt, the new No

10 for ingland, has been given the grankicking responsibilities

the gran kicking responsibilities for Ball in their Cup quarter-

inal clasa tomorrow against

Cardiff. Jon Callard, the club's

op points-scorer this season,

in favour of the Wigan rugby league star Jason Robinson.

Leicester Tigers' traditional

Christmas clash with the Bar-

barians on 27 December has

havi to be switched to Tuesday. 25 February, because of fixture

as been dropped as full-back



Greg Rusedski cracks a forehand during his win over Miles Maclagan at Telford yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown Rory's difficulties is that he can't u to training as often as he or

Bates makes early departure

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Telford

Jeremy Bates, who carried the the hopes of British tennis for the best part of a decade, was beaten 6-3, 6-4 by Paul Robinson, a 22-year-old left hander from Northampton, in the second round of the Guardian Direct British National Championships

at Telford yesterday.

Bates, 34, the former British No 1 and winner of this title six times, retired from serious tour-

nament play after Wimbledon this year but most people still expected him to beat Robinson

even though he insists he is playing only for fun" this week. Robinson, who had beaten the fourth-seeded Danny Sapsford in the first round, was always in control, breaking Bates' service twice in each set and losing his own just once in the match.

Robinson won the first set in 29 minutes after three successive breaks had left him leading 3-2 with service to follow and then won the second set in 30 minutes with breaks in the fifth

and ninth games to move into

the quarter-finals. Bates is shortly to take over ing at the Lawn Tennis Association and Robinson said: "It did cross my mind that I was playing the boss but Leighton Al-fred, my coach, said it would do me a lot of good if I played well. I had never played Jeremy before but I have a lot of respect for him because he was our top player for so long. But I told myself not to think about that." Greg Rusedski, the British

having his service broken twice by Miles Maclagan, the West of Scotland player, in the opening as manager for National Train- set to trail 5-2. But he won the next four games to lead 6-5. Maclagan then held serve to force a tie-break but Rusedski

> match 7-6, 6-1, Samantha Smith, the British women's No 1 had a terrible day, losing her quarter-final match with Claire Taylor 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 before being criticised by LTA officials for speaking out about the state of the British

won it 7-1 and eventually the

Maligned **Atlanta** meets targets

Olympic Games

Billy Payne, head of the Atlanta Committee for this summer's Olympics, has announced that the Games broke even.

Payne confirmed that the Games would meet their £1.1bu budget. "We will break even, and maybe have a few dollars left over, but not much," Payne said. "We will tell the IOC [International Olympic Committee that our expense and revenue targets were met."

The Atlanta Games were the first financed entirely by private funds. After recent speculation of a possible deficit, the IOC was anxious to get Payne's assurance that the Games would finish in the black.

Payne's report to the IOC of Atlanta. A report prepared by European Olympic officials is scathing on several issues. It says the Olympic village was cramped and overcrowded, the food was bad, transportation was a mess and the ambience created by over-commercialism was

"cheap and tawdry".

Meanwhile, the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has praised the Barcelona Games as the best of all time and said the Atlanta Olympics were marred by a long list of

shortcomings.

Samaranch said he did not proclaim the Atlanta Games with the usual post-Olympic superlative because of the multitude of problems ranging from transport bottlenecks to technology failures. "I was right by not talking of the 'best Games

ever'," Samaranch claimed. He said that he had also withheld the superlative "best Games ever" after the Sarajevo Winter Olympics in 1984, in Albertville in 1992 and "I believe also in Los Angeles in 1984".

"I only say that when it is true. No one can dispute that Lillehammer were the best Winter Games and Barcelona the best Summer Games.

Steelers face European test

ice hockey

Sheffield Steelers will be looking to maintain the recent resurgence of the sport in Britain when they take on some of Europe's best teams in Finland this

In midweek Great Britain moved a step closer to qualify-ing for the Olympics for the first time in 50 years with a con-vincing 5-0 defeat of Slovenia. Now Alex Dampier's Steelers try to back up Britain's achievements with a decent show in the European Cup semi-finals.

It will not be easy. At the same stage two years ago. Cardiff Devils scored three goals and conceded 40 in a pointless crusade to Minsk. Steelers are unlikely to surrender as easily, which is mainly due to the new Superleague and the arrival of North Americans and Canadians on these shores.

Steelers take on the Norwegian champions, Storhamar, in today's opener. Tomorrow they face their toughest test against the host side, HPK Hameenlinna, before wrapping up the three-game series the following night against the Belarussians. Polymir Khimik Novopoletsk.

"Finland will be a huge, huge leap for us, the Steelers coach. Alex Dampier, said. "We are all looking forward to it."

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n h attiertes are set to benefit from million annual wundfall thanks to er mish Sports Council Lottery Fundamen lottery Eurobanes, competition represent Scotland in a range ats can expect varving levels of be to pay for coacting, training and authors costs.

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World Boxing Organisation baneight title fight between holder Rob-regan and Drew Docherty, of and, will go ahead on 30 November Rhondda Fach Sports Centre in

3 own. Originally the light was abused for the Newport Lessure e on 14 September, before being smed to the Cardiff ice Rink on 19 ran Fletcher, the Western Province n, is to take up an off-season post clampran, Western Province will d Slamorgan. Western Province will be Fletcher at the end of the South

resume his post at Newlands Division Reading are to start work their £37m alt-seater stadium after scalors granted detailed planning person. The Royals plan to start the 8-99 season at their new 25.000

eters, manager of Preston, will

new players after a £3.7m cash boost from a group of the club's major in-vestors. The remaining money will go towards the building of a new 6,000. seat stand at the ground. TRANSFER: Steve Weish (defenden) ough to Dursfermine (£65,000).

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Golf

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SPORTING DIGEST ice hockey Rugby League

lestin Harris, Warrington's Great Britain stand-off, has turned down the chance to move to Leeds. Warrington gave Super League rivals Leeds the go-ahead to open talks with Harris, who was transfer listed in the surriner at a world record fee of £1.35m, but Harns, who was on the recent Lions tour to the southern hemisphere, said: "My burning desire is to join St Helens."

Rugby Union

Lecester Tigers' traditional Christmas match against the Barbanans, which usually takes place on 27 December, has been moved to Tuesday 25 Feb-nuary because of a feture clash. nuary because of a forture clash.

REMISED SOUTH-MEST TEAM (x South Mrica A.

Easter, Wodnesday, 20 Movember): P Belahaw
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(Thotament, J Dicker, Neglis, Service), Mrich

Jimmy White yesterday went out of the German Open at Preston, White, beaten in all four of his matches so far dur-ing the 1996-97 season, unexpectedly lost 5-1 to the world No 55, Mark Davis, in the final qualifying round of the event. John Parrott was also denied a trip to the final stages in Germany by the 17year-old Londoner David Gray after a sur-prise 5-3 defeat.

5-3: M Williams, Milai at M Price (Engl 5-2: A Ro-bebox (Care tot A Harmiton (Engl 5-1: M Danie (Engl 5: 1 Mine (Engl 5-1: O Mongan (Mail to P Device (Wall 5-0: S David (Engl 2: I Sangari (Mail 5-2: D Mandel (Engl 6: Billiam), (Engl 5-3: O Gray (Engl of 1) Pricotal (Engl 5-3:

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(3-3); (koparuho (4-1)); (koparuho (4-

Tennis

Switzerland's Jakob Masek, 32, announced his retrement from compet-tive termis yesterday, saying "it was time to turn the page". Hissel won five sin-ges titles, 20 doubles and just over \$5.5million (£3.6m) in a career that

S5.5million (£3.6m) in a career that spanned 14 years. PHOEMERATP TOUR WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONISHIP (Hartford, Connecticut) Roundroble I Bromman issue on Microsis issue on Microsis (£3m) and D Nestor (£3m) 4-6.6-4.6-4; I£men inventioned Phanthus Rieth int S Laeau (£3m) and A Othon (MS) 7-8-6-4; TWoodhodga (Astri and II Woodhodga (Astri and II) Woo

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Gallian back on board

No 2 survived a difficult match,

England A will recall the trio who missed their victory over South Australia for the fourday match against the Australian Cricket Academy in Mount Gambier, which starts today.

Jason Gallian, a former graduate of the Australian Academy, returns after sustaining a hand injury in the opening tour defeat against a New South Wales XI in Tamworth. The veteran spinner Peter

Such and the Lancashire fast bowler Glen Chapple, both rested for the triumph in Adeaide, are also certain to play as | There is little doubt that the no England seek to keep their whole squad involved, although no decision will be made on the

INO GECESION WILL be made on the line-Up until (oday.

ENGLAND A: Itomi: M A Butcher, J E R Gallan, M P Vaugran, A McCasth, O A Sheh, A Holstoake, C White, M A Eaham, W K Hegg, A F Gree, G Chappie, D W Headley, P M Such, A J Herris.

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Lehman overhauls Faldo

shot deficit to take a one-stroke lead over the Masters champion Nick Faldo and Steve Jones, the US Open champion, in the first round of the rain-delayed MasterCard PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii.

The Open champion Tom

majors completed a roundand-a-half of the scheduled 36-hole event, with nine holes still to be played today.

Lehman overhauled a four- an opening 68 to lie two shots off the pace set by Australians Wayne Riley and Bryan Roach at the Australian PGA Championship in Sydney. Jackson was among a group of four on the four-under-par total. Scotland's Catriona Matthew

England's Ben Jackson shot

The four champions of golf's shot the best round of her career. an eight-under-par 65, to take a one-stroke lead after the opening day of the Australian Ladies Masters on the Gold Coast.

New rule improves game

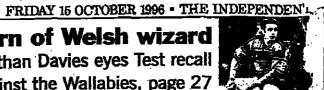
offside rule introduced at the start of the season has improved bockey as a spectator sport, writes Bill Colwill

Surprisingly, and in spite of the high scoring by certain sides such as Doncaster, who seem to have come up with ideas ahead of others to take advantage of the greater freedom, there has not been a vast terialised.

increase in the number of goals scored. The men's National League is averaging just over a goal per game more than last season while in the women's National League it is exactly a goal a game more.

Few teams seem to have altered their tactics drastically. The fear of some coaches that the midfield would be bypassed, leading to a lot of long balls out of defence, has not ma-

1



Big changes promised by Strachan

TOMMY STANIFORTH

The new Coventry City manager, Gordon Strachan, yesterday gave a "do things my way or there will be changes" ultimatum to his players as he surveyed the wreckage following the worse possible start to life in the Highfield Road hot seat.

The Coca-Cola Cup has not been Strachan's favourite competition in recent years, with his previous club, Leeds United. suffering a string of embarrassing results against lower division opposition most notably Third Division Mansfield two

But even they paled into insignificance compared with Wednesday's 1-0 third-round replay home defeat to Second Division Gillingham - a performance the like of which Strachan will not tolerate again.

Strachan, reflecting in the aftermath of his first match since replacing Ron Atkinson, said:
"If I fail it will be because we've done things my way and not anybody else's way.

The performances will change and, if the players listen to what I have to say, and play to the level of standard and effort I require, then they should

"If they decide to join me and where I'm wanting to go with the club, then line, but if not then there will have to be

changes. It is up to the players. Maybe on this last occasion the lads were too nervous and trying too hard to get me a win. I don't know about that, but certainly myself and everyone connected with the club can't put up with a performance like

Gillingham were well-organised and wanted it more than us. They wanted to win the scrappy ball more than us and it's when you win the battle that you can play the football."

Strachan admitted: "I had some horrendous results in the League Cup at Leeds. I've had hody blows before but that doesn't mean that it softens the pain this time around. We've also got to be very brave about Wednesday's game and look in the mirror and say: 'That will never happen again." *Leeds had those knock-

backs but went on to achieve great things like winning the Learne championship and qualifying for the European Cup. We've also got to look to bounce back - starting with Wimbledon on Saturday." Strachan hinted that he is

likely to encourage a more direct "shoot-on-sight" policy af-ter his side's chances could be counted on one hand. He said: If your style of football is very nice-looking but there are no shots on goals or crosses as the end product, then it is failing. There were times against Gillingham when we played some nice football without getting

Strachan at least may take heart from the comments of his striker Noel Whelan, who is determined to repay the faith shown in him by his new manager after being charged with drink-driving and becoming involved in a training-ground fight with his team-mate. Dion

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

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CPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square. Carrier Whys, Lindon E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St.

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roped in? Yes, continually

gaged in deceptions (6) Sends up flag bordered with

One yields to nothing, being 21

settlement (7) NUT? (4)

Faulty column? Must be the

Girl. US student, reduced

vigour ultimately (5)

very small figure (5)

17 March during physical training, with roundabout route? (5) 19 Salad plant, note, among

crinkled prunes (8)

22 Just the places for airing

11 Dress (sack) making come-

2 Homely piece containing 3 music for certain bells? [10] 4
13 Music piece in English paper in NE (8) 5
15 Bank in South, drawing out

up. I have got myself a bad also earned the club some bad remarks which isn't fair. I want to rectify my mistakes by doing

scoring some goals.

Chariton's England Under-21 defender Jamie Stuart could be back in action within two weeks after being injured at Liverpool on Wednesday. The Charlton manager, Alan Curbishley, be-lieved his 20-year-old left-back had suffered a broken leg dur-ing a challenge with Michael Thomas in his side's 4-1 Coca-Cola Cup replay defeat at An-field. However, X-rays revealed that Stuart, who was carried off in the 56th minute, had suffered only severe bruising.

retain his place in the Liverpool starting line-up and revive his Premiership career at Leeds on Saturday. His manager, Roy Evans, gave him his chance against Charlton at the expense of Phil Babb and Ruddock responded superbly. Babb had been an ever-present this season but paid the price for a poor game in the 3-0 defeat against Blackburn. Now the former Tottenham defender appears set for a run in the team after

withdrawing a transfer request. Evans saluted him following the victory over Charlton: "Ra zor has had to be patient. But we have thrown him in and he has responded in a way we would have hoped.

We have a big squad and that can give you a headache. We have a lot of good players and it is a problem many people would like to have."

14 Acts disarmingly, you might

edly vintage (8) 18 Flatter – otherwise laud -

20

Back osues available from Historic Newspapers, 01765-5403

with a note (7) 'The Accomplice', a play

that's over the hill? (7)

Success, getting ahead?

page (4)

That's the ticket (6) Distortion's offensive on

Searched for drink, report-



Botham back in England fold

Cricket

ADAM SZRETER

No sooner has Raymond Illingworth turned his back on the England Test scene than Ian Botham, effectively barred from office during Illingworth's term as chairman of selectors, has strolled in at the invitation of David Lloyd, the England coach, and will act as technical adviser on this winter's tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand.

Botham, who has been limited to media work since his re-

will also be involved in bowling contract at the end of the sumcoaching as England try to prepare for next summer's Ashes series against Australia.

Lloyd said: "I have wanted Ian to be involved with us for some time. And this winter we will be using his technical skills - especially on the bowling side. Ian is very happy to be asked - and the invitation has come from me. I have been mates with him for a long time and this is a personal

It is not thought that any money is involved but Botham's tirement as a player three years unofficial appointment repreago, will be on the winter tour sents a major coup for Lloyd, as a Sky TV commentator. But, who took over as England

mer after initially being given the job on a trial basis back in

The England team leave for their 14-week tour on 25 November and Botham is expected in Zimbabwe shortly before the first of two Tests against the Zimbabweans either side of Christmas. England then play three Tests in New Zealand in the New Year.

Botham was frequently outspoken during his record-breaking but turbulent Test career, most notably in his description of the England selectors as "gin-swilling dodderers". That and a number of other transas Lloyd revealed yesterday, he coach on a full-time, two-year gressions, including smoking watching endless hours of coun- gifted players can understa

banned for three months - and being charged after an assault during an aeroplane flight in Australia, ensured that Botham would not find it easy to get back into the England set-up at any level following his final Test match, against Pakistan at Lord's in 1992.

At the start of last season he was nominated as an England selector by Northamptonshire and Derbyshire but was soundly beaten in the election by Graham Gooch and David Gravency. Botham's newspaper and television commitments. plus his own admission that he

ty cricket, undoubtedly coun ed against him.

Later in the summer, alon with his former England team mate Allan Lamb, Botham lost a protracted and costly libel action against the former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, which many observers felt did little for the game's image, or that of Botham himself.

Now Botham, whose coaching at the moment extends to the Sultan of Brunei's son, has been given the green light by Lloyd but, great all-rounder though he was, it remains to be seen whether he has the canacity to translate his extraordinary n did not relish the prospect of ural ability into language that

Damon Hill returned to the cockpit yesterday for the first time since winning the world championship. This is what happened...

Four weeks after winning the Japanese Grand Prix to clinch the Formula One World Drivers' Championship. Damon Hill was forced to take in another view of Suzuka's scenery.

Hill crashed heavily while testing tyres at the Suzuka circuit yesterday in his first session with his new Arrows team, but escaped unburt. He was driving a Ligier for the planned twoday test - because he is too tall to fit in the Arrows car which has not yet been adapted for him - and lost control of his car at low speed on cold tyres on the exit of the hairpin and soun around before colliding with the wall on the inside of the track.

The impact ripped two corners off the car and wrecked the gearbox, causing the Arrows team to abandon testing a day early. The team were evaluat ing the Bridgestone tyres which they plan to use next season. Hill triumphed at Suzuka on

for Williams-Renault, who sacked him for the 1997 season in favour of the German rook-13 October in his final grand prix is Heinz-Harald Frentzen. It was Arrows team in late 'spitember, the lap record for the car by more

Hill's eighth grand printwin of the season and 21st in all.

Signed by Tom Waijanshaw's of 1min 40.14sec, which broke



(left) of the Arrows team towed off the Suzuka traafter being crashed by Damon H祖 (above) Photographs: Empics

than 1.5sec. Hill said before ing. The purpose of this w to get out there and estwhere they [the tyres] stand and what their potential is.

There will be the opporting to go into several diffe -directions, I expect, so it's portant for me to get up to s with them."

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